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THE NATION'S LEGISLATURE

THE WRANGLING DEMOCRACY.

SENATORS BELL AND MORGAN SPEAK IN OPPOSITION TO ALL WAR CLAIMS—MR. BECK CHARACTERIZES MR. HILL'S EFFORT AS A STUMP-SPEECH—THE FAMILY QUARREL TO BE CONTINUED.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The Senate spent nearly the entire session to-day ostensibly considering the claim of Warren Mitchell, of Kentucky, for cotton captured by the United States during the war, but really in discussing the general question of Southern war claims. The discussion was confined principally to the Democratic side and became almost as much of a family quarrel as was witnessed last week on the occasion of Gen. Bragg's raid. The claim of Mitchell was warmly supported by both the Kentucky Senators and opposed by Ben Hill, of Georgia, and Mr. Morgan, of Alabama. Hill arraigned the policy of considering this class of claims, and declared that he was opposed to all war claims, whether presented by loyal or disloyal claimants. He believed that none of them should ever be considered, much less paid, and he created quite a sensation by saying that the sooner the Southern people were given to understand that these war claims would not be considered by Congress the better it would be for them. They would then go about building up their shattered fabric instead of looking to the Government for their bounty. He said he could see no difference in this class of claims, for he had never yet had a definition of loyalty as applied to those who remained South during the war. If respect for the Union and a desire to see it perpetuated was loyalty, he knew of thousands of men in the South who had resisted secession as long as it was possible, and only acquiesced in it from sheer necessity. Referring to himself, he said that never, even in the midst of the struggle, in his heart of hearts did he expect or wish to see this Union dissolved, and he knew thousands in the South whose feelings in this direction were as strong as his own. Mr. Beck, of Kentucky, and others on the Democratic side heard Hill with impatience, and when he had finished Mr. Beck characterized his remarks as a stump-speech, and made a sharp attack upon him. Morgan, of Alabama, followed Mr. Beck, and in much the same strain as Hill, opposed the claim. It is expected that others will follow their lead to-morrow, for several of the Southern Senators are desirous of putting themselves on record as fully opposed to all war claims of whatever character. This is probably done to counteract the effect of the action of their party friends in the House from the Southern States.

MONDAY IN THE HOUSE.

MR. WRIGHT'S UTOPIAN SCHEME VOTED DOWN BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY—A COMMOTION CREATED BY A BILL FOR THE ERECTION OF FEDERAL BUILDINGS IN VARIOUS CITIES.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—No business of importance was transacted in the House to-day. The usual number of bills was introduced under the call of States and referred to the appropriate committees, after which Mr. Wright's bill to lend each settler on the public lands $500 was taken up and rejected by a vote of 212 to 22. Before the vote was taken, the House, being in an indulgent humor, gave unanimous consent to Mr. Wright to explain his bill. His argument, however, had no effect, and it is probable that his bill would have received more votes had he remained silent.

After the vote upon Mr. Wright's bill, Mr. Whitthorne, of Tennessee, was recognized, and moved to suspend the rules and pass a bill to appropriate over $2,000,000 for the erection of public buildings in various cities. The bill provided appropriations for the following-named cities: Augusta, Me., and Key West, Fla., each $100,000; Lynchburg, Va., and Council Bluffs, Iowa, each $75,000; Oxford, Miss., and Greensboro, N. C., each $50,000; Brooklyn, $250,000; Montgomery, Ala., $150,000; Erie, Penn., $120,000; La Crosse, Wis., $65,000. The reading of the bill created an uproar in the House, and when it was finished a score of members jumped to their feet and demanded to be informed whether provision was made for their respective sections. Mr. Mills said that as no provision was made for erecting buildings in Texas he would move to adjourn. This motion was received with a yell of approval from those whose districts were omitted from Whitthorne's proposed distribution of public money, and notwithstanding the determined efforts of those opposed to adjournment, Mr. Mills' motion was carried on a yea and nay vote. This unexpected adjournment prevented Mr. Robbins from bringing forward his proposition to assign a day for the consideration of the bill of the Committee on Ways and Means to readjust the duties on sugars. The adjournment, however, does not dispose of Mr. Waltthorne's bill, but leaves it as the unfinished business for next Monday after the morning hour.

THE CORBIN-BUTLER CONTEST.

REPORT OF THE MINORITY OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE—THE DECISION IN FAVOR OF BUTLER HELD TO BE FINAL.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Senators Merrimon, Saulsbury, and Hill, the Democratic members of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, have prepared a minority report in the contested election case of Corbin against Butler, of South Carolina. After stating the issue between the contestants, the report of the minority says:

"On Nov. 20, 1877, a motion was made in the Senate, on a discharge, the Committee on Privileges and Elections from the consideration of the credentials of M. C. Butler, of South Carolina. The reason alleged for this motion was that the facts were all stated in the records furnished by the contestants, that neither of the contestants desired to take any testimony elsewhere, and that the question of law could be argued and decided in the Senate as well without as with a report from the committee. On Nov. 26, after elaborate debate, this resolution to discharge the committee was accepted by the Senate, and after the statements made and printed in behalf of Mr. Corbin, and arguments had been made in the Senate on both sides, the Senate agreed to a motion to swear in Butler, and on Nov. 30 he was sworn in as the Senator for South Carolina for the term in contest. A vote admitting one contestant to a seat is certainly a vote denying the same seat to another contestant, when both contestants are parties to the issue. No motion was made to reconsider this action of the Senate, and no reservation was made looking to any further contest between the claimants. On March 26, 1878, and during a subsequent session of Congress, the petition of Corbin, now under consideration, asking the Senate 'to inquire into, hear and determine his right and claim to the same seat in the Senate,' was referred to this committee. In considering this petition the facts which have been presented to the committee are precisely the same which were presented on the former consideration of the case. Not a new fact has been presented nor offered to be presented, and not an old fact has been withdrawn nor offered to be withdrawn or modified. The arguments now made have been made from the same statements and briefs filed on the former hearing, and not a new question of law has been presented, except the issue of res adjudicata. No charge of fraud has been made against the former decision; no allegation that testimony was before excluded which ought to have been admitted, or that testimony was admitted which ought to have been excluded. No payment by either party to produce testimony has been denied, and no pretense that testimony then offered and excluded can now be produced. The jurisdiction in the case, the parties are the same, the subject-matter of contest is the same, the facts are the same, and the questions of law are the same. The petition of Corbin is a mere naked proposition that the Senate, upon the same facts, and issues on which the Senate voted and decided at a former session."

The minority argue that no demand like that contained in the petition of Corbin was ever granted by the Senate nor by any legislative body, and refer to the case of Bright and Pitch in the Thirty-fifth Congress, where a rehearing was asked in a memorial from the Legislature of Indiana. In that case it was held that the judgment first rendered by the Senate was final, and prevented further inquiry into the subject. The report says that, at on the former hearing, Corbin had been denied the privilege of introducing material facts which he offered to produce; if he presented material facts now which were then unknown; if all the facts and questions of law known and presented were not then as fully known and presented, the minority would not undertake to say his petition for a hearing ought not in justice to be gravely heard and considered on the merits. But as Corbin has himself suggested no new facts or questions of law, his petition for another vote cannot be regarded as entitled to consideration. The minority argue that the only real question is whether the lower branch of the Legislature which, it is claimed, elected Corbin, was a legal House or a legal quorum of a House under the Constitution and laws of South Carolina, and proceed to argue that such was not the fact, and that Corbin was not elected by a legal Legislature.

THE NEW REFUNDING LAW.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT READY TO CARRY IT INTO EFFECT.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The Secretary of the Treasury has issued a circular to holders of United States 6 per cent. 5-20 bonds, in which, after calling attention to the act of Congress just approved, entitled, "An act to facilitate the refunding of the national debt," he says: "Under the provisions of this act the department will exchange the 6 per centum coupon of the United States for an equal amount of any outstanding and unsellied 6 per centum 5-20 bonds of the United States. In addition, the department will pay to the holder of the 6 per centum bonds the interest accrued and additional interest for a period of three months; also, a commission, the same as for the sale of bonds under the circular of Jan. 1, 1879, to wit: On an aggregate of $100,000, and not exceeding $1,000,000, between Jan. 31, 1879, and June 30, 1879, one-half of 1 per cent; on an aggregate exceeding $1,000,000, and not exceeding $10,000,000, between the same dates, one-quarter of 1 per cent, and on amounts in excess of $10,000,000, an additional commission of one-tenth of 1 per cent, on the excess; and will transmit the bonds to the parties entitled thereto free of expense. The delivery thereof on the 4 per cents will be changed to date of the exchange." Bonds sent under this circular should be addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C., marked "Loan Division—for Exchange," and 4 per cent. bonds, with a draft for the interest and commissions, will be sent promptly in return. This direct exchange is intended to promote the rapid refunding of the public debt, and to give to holders of bonds every facility that is granted under existing laws in the payment of called bonds. Bonds called on or prior to the date of exchange will not be received under this circular.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in answer to inquiries concerning the amount of 4 per cent. bonds that can be issued for refunding purposes, states that under the Refunding act there was authorized an aggregate amount of $1,500,000,000 bonds to be issued for that purpose; that there has already been issued of the 5 per cents $500,000,000; of 4½ per cents $185,000,000, and of 4 per cents $162,200,000, in all $853,200,000, leaving of 4 per cents still to be issued $646,800. Of the bonds at present redeemable there is now outstanding: Consols of 1865, $26,095,850; of 1867, $216,614,000; of 1868, $37,485,300; of 10-40s, $194,565,200—in all, $565,760,150. Adding that there are more than enough 4 per cents authorized to take up all the bonds which will be redeemable before 1880.

The subscriptions to the 4 per cent. loan since Saturday's report amounted to $5,128,950.

REBEL WAR CLAIMS.

TEXT OF THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROHIBITING THEIR PAYMENT.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The following is the text of the proposition reported by Mr. Edmunds to-day from the Senate Judiciary Committee as a substitute for the constitutional amendment on the same subject proposed by the joint resolution which passed the House under a suspension of the rules on the last day of the last session:

ARTICLE XVI. No claim against the United States shall ever hereafter be sustained or allowed by Congress, or any department officer or court of the United States, or money paid by the United States or from their funds, whether as damages, compensation, or otherwise, for or on account of any act prohibited or declared to be unlawful, or held, taken, used, injured, or damaged, by the United States troops, or by or through any officer, civil or military, or other person acting or professing to act under or by authority of the United States or of their enemies, or taken, used, injured, or damaged by any other cause whatever during the existence of the late insurrection or rebellion against the Government of the United States, unless the owner thereof (and in case of any corporation, its governing authority and management) was, during the time of such insurrection or rebellion, loyal in fact to the Government of the United States, and gave neither aid nor encouragement to the enemy. No pension, bounty, grant, pecuniary indemnity, or pecuniary benefit shall ever be given or provided for by or under the authority of Congress or any State for, or on account of, any military or other service performed, or injury suffered, in hostility to the Government of the United States. No pardon or amnesty, past or future, shall have any effect to take any person, case, or claim out of the purview of this article.

NOTES FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27, 1879.

The receipts from internal revenue to-day were $870,802 82, and from Customs, $392,605 01.

IN THE TIMES of the 20th there appeared in these dispatches a paragraph referring to the suspension of Mr. William M. Leede, the Chief Clerk of the Indian Bureau. The resignation of Mr. Leede has thus far not been accepted, but he has received official assurance that the reasons existing for severing his connection with the Indian Office do not in any way affect the respect and confidence to which his character and integrity are entitled.

The bill introduced by Senator Ferry, of Michigan, to-day, provides that all able-bodied male citizens between the ages of 18 and 45 years, resident within the respective States and Territories, except such as may be exempt by law, shall constitute the Militia. The Militia are to be divided into two classes—the active to be known as the National or State Guard, as the Legislature of each State may prescribe, and the inactive to be known as the reserve Militia. The bill proposes to appropriate $1,000,000 for the purpose of providing arms, ammunition, and other ordinary and Quartermaster stores for the active Militia.

In the case of W. O. Avery against Benjamin F. Butler, an action to recover $500 paid defendant as counsel, for which plaintiff claims that the defendant rendered no service, the defendant (Gen. Butler) to-day filed his plea with the Clerk of the District Court admitting that he was paid $500 as a retainer. He was delayed from attending Avery's trial by illness, but he had placed in Avery's hands an elaborate brief on the law and facts with directions to hand it to his other counsel, and in said brief certain defects in counts of the indictment against Avery were pointed out. The defendant has over promised to return the amount and says his services were worth a larger sum.

TWO DEFAULTERS IN CINCINNATI.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Jan. 27.—J. H. Dickman, Treasurer of St. Anthony's Catholic Church, is a defaulter to the amount of $6,000, and Jacob Renneker, Treasurer of the German Catholic Cemetery Association, to the amount of $1,200.

RESUMPTION IN OHIO.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 27.—In the House this afternoon a resolution was offered and laid over for discussion, calling upon the Ohio Congressmen to oppose any measures looking to the repeal of the Resumption act.

ANOTHER CHANCE FOR A MURDERER.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 27.—The Supreme Court has granted a new trial to Louis Gastig, the murderer of Mary McGlen, who was to have been hanged on Jan. 29, with Asley and Merrick.

PITTSTON, Penn., Jan. 27.—John Tierney, of this place, was run over by a freight train on the Lehigh Valley Railroad this afternoon, and instantly killed.

ALBANY, Jan. 27.—Thomas Ward, convicted of outrage in New-York and sentenced to the Penitentiary for 10 years, has been pardoned by the Governor.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 27.—John Hess, an engineer on the Pan Handle Railroad, while at a water-tank near Urbana, Ohio, yesterday, slipped and fell a distance of 30 feet, fracturing his skull.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 27.—Benjamin Krumpelman and Jack Crowley, aged 13 and 14, were drowned in the river at the foot of Russell-street, Covington, Ky., yesterday, by the upsetting of a skiff through collision with a coal barge.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 27.—At the annual meeting of the Providence, Warren and Bristol Railroad Company, held this afternoon, the old Board of Directors was re-elected. Henry A. Whitney, of Boston, was re-elected President.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 27.—John B. Calder, late Cashier of the Grocers' and Producers' Bank, is being tried on a second indictment for embezzling the funds of the bank. A late trial on a similar indictment resulted in a disagreement of the jury.

THE LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

TURKEY'S AND AFGHANISTAN'S TROUBLES.

ENGLAND'S REPORTED NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF CYPRUS DENIED—ANOTHER CITY OF AFGHANISTAN OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH—RUSSIA'S INFLUENCE OVER THE BULGARIANS.

LONDON, Jan. 27.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* says it understands that the announcement by the Berlin correspondent of the London *Post* of England's intention to purchase the Island of Cyprus is unfounded.

SOFHIA, Jan. 27.—It is believed that a group of influential Bulgarian Deputies to the Assembly of Notables for the election of a ruler over Bulgaria will propose an adjournment of the election for a Prince, and the prolongation of the Russian military occupation and civil administration for two years, on account of the difficulty of finding Bulgarians competent to exercise the civil administration, and because of the dangers arising from a weak government at the outset.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—The *Standard's* dispatch from Khelet-I-Ghilzai, Jan. 20, says: "The cavalry occupied this place to-day unopposed. Gen. Stewart, with the whole Second Brigade, will arrive to-morrow."

A dispatch to the *Standard*, dated Matoond, Sunday, Jan. 26, says Gen. Roberts, previous to his temporarily quitting Khost, assembled the chiefs and warned them that the British would be always near, and would return instantly to quell any disturbance. It would be idle for them to entertain any hope of Russian aid, as Russia was imperfectly informed in regard to the Afghan troubles.

VIENNA, Jan. 27.—The lower house of the Reichsrath has approved the treaty of Berlin by a vote of 154 to 112.

THE PLAGUE IN RUSSIA.

STRINGENT MEASURES ADOPTED TO CHECK ITS SPREAD—A REPORT THAT THE DISEASE HAS APPEARED IN MOSCOW.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 27.—Official telegrams received on Sunday from the infested districts report that no persons are now ill with the disease at Wetlianka. In the other villages attacked by the plague one death and two new cases are reported. At Tsaritsin a commission has been appointed by the Ministries of the Interior and of Ways and Communication to prevent the spread of the contagion by the roads or railways. A special Public Health Commission has also been appointed. The town of Tsaritsin is surrounded by military pickets, and quarantine has been established on both sides of the River Volga. The *Nouve Vremya* publishes a report, which lacks confirmation, that the epidemic has appeared in or near Moscow.

VIENNA, Jan. 27.—The Austrian Consul at Moscow contradicts a report of the outbreak of the epidemic at Ruza, in the Government of Moscow.

SALVAGE FOR SAVING A FRIGATE.

A CLAIM FOR $7,500 AGAINST THE UNITED STATES SHIP CONSTITUTION.

LONDON, Jan. 27.—In the Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice an action has been brought by the owners of the steaming Admiral against the United States ship Constitution to recover £1,500 for salvage. The sum of £200 had been tendered to the owners of the tug, but was rejected. The plaintiff asked leave to serve notice of the motion upon the Captain of the Constitution and the United States Consul at Portsmouth. The application was granted, but the Judge stated that he could not either any order to issue upon the Captain. He would be prepared to hear argument on the question on Wednesday next. In the meantime he would communicate with the Government. Plaintiff's counsel undertook, on his own responsibility, to serve the Captain of the Constitution with the notice of the motion for salvage. The Judge impressed him with the necessity of informing Minister Welsh and Lord Salisbury of the proceedings.

FOREIGN FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

THE TROUBLES OF THE METROPOLITAN BANK OF LONDON—AN EGYPTIAN NATIONAL BANK FORMED AT ALEXANDRIA.

LONDON, Jan. 27.—At a meeting to-day of the shareholders of the Metropolitan Bank, with reference to which it was rumored last week that the institution was in process of absorption by another London bank, the Chairman stated that a call for £5 per share was issued on Friday to meet a threatened run, which, in fact, was successfully met. The Chairman declared that the reports of the bank's insolvency were unfounded; the assets would pay every debt and leave a surplus of £100,000. A committee of five shareholders was appointed to consider with the Directors whether the bank should continue or transfer its business to some other concern.

ALEXANDRIA, Jan. 27.—The Egyptian National Bank, with a capital of £4,000,000, has been formed, under the auspices of the Minister of Finance, and Right Hon. Robert Lowe, member of Parliament for London University, has accepted the Chairmanship of the English Board of Directors of the Bank.

CURRENT FOREIGN TOPICS.

A FRUITLESS SEARCH MADE FOR THE PIRATICAL STEAMER—DRAWING OF THE PARIS EXPOSITION LOTTERY—THE BRITISH LABOR TROUBLES.

LONDON, Jan. 27.—The *Daily Telegraph* says that the British gun-boat Goshawk left Cork on Saturday to seek intelligence concerning the alleged piratical steamer. The Goshawk overhauled many vessels, but learned nothing, and it is believed that the letter of Capt. Adams is a hoax.

The Edinburgh *Scotsman* publishes the following from its London correspondent: "If I am rightly informed, Cardinal Manning has had an opportunity offered him of explaining personally to Lord Beaconsfield his views respecting the Catholic education difficulty in Ireland. The question will probably be brought forward very prominently next session under the auspices of the Government. The Irish Catholics demand State endowment for the Catholic University.

PARIS, Jan. 27.—The drawing of the Exposition lottery was begun yesterday in the large hall of the Trocadero Palace. A large crowd witnessed the drawing. Yesterday's drawing consisted of the first 300 prizes. No. 1, value $26,000, was won by ticket No. 978,599 of the fourth series; No. 2, value $20,000, by ticket No. 167,257 of the fifth series; No. 3, value $10,000, by ticket No. 75,582 of the eleventh series; No. 4, value $10,000, by ticket No. 24,613 of the first series; No. 5, value $5,000, by ticket No. 027,579 of the ninth series.

BERLIN, Jan. 27.—The *National Gazette* learns on good authority that the Prussian Ministry has pronounced against the tobacco monopoly and in favor of taxation according to weight, and has charged the Minister of Finance to prepare a bill giving effect to its views.

MADRID, Jan. 27.—It is reported that the Kings of Spain and Portugal, at the approaching meeting at Evas, will discuss a marriage between the Infanta Maria Della Paz, sister of King Alfonso, and Prince Augustus, of Portugal, brother of King Luis.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—It is estimated that one-seventh of the looms and spindles in Blackburn are stopped, and that from 4,000 to 5,000 operatives are idle and destitute. No public relief fund has been started. Because of the diminished means of all classes, Mill-owners say that trade was never worse. Only a few isolated disputes have been settled without a reduction of wages. Masters have been obliged to make reductions, because reductions have been accepted by the employes of several large Preston and Burnley establishments. The colliers' lodges of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, and North Derbyshire have agreed, by a considerable majority, to accept arbitration, and a deputation will meet the masters to arrange terms to-day.

HOW TILDEN AND HENDRICKS MET.

JUDGE PATTERSON'S STORY OF HOW HE WRESTLED WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE—THE CONFERENCE AT SARATOGA.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 27.—The story of the Saratoga conference between Tilden and Hendricks is told for the first time by Judge Chambers Patterson, of Terre Haute, who was sent by Hendricks to see Tilden, about the last of June, after the St. Louis Convention. Hendricks had decided that he would not accept a nomination with Tildep, unless the latter would use his influence to secure the repeal of the Resumption act. When Judge Patterson reached Albany, he found that Tilden was at Poughkeepsie, and telegraphed to him. Tilden answered directing him to meet him there, which he did, and they together took the train for Albany. What followed is thus related by Judge Patterson:

"When we got in the sleeping-car I explained my mission to him, and told him that Congress was then in session, and if the House did not pass the repealing bill Mr. Hendricks would be off the ticket. 'Oh,' said Tilden, 'let's say nothing about that; keep the subject in the background, and make the race on reform.' Then he looked under and all around the seat, and said, 'I thought I heard some one. I'm afraid of those reporters. They are ubiquitous, and would creep under a man's house to hear his talk.' I laughed at the old man's fears, and insisted on the point demanded by Mr. Hendricks, but he would concede nothing. He said New-York was essential to success, and New-York wanted resumption. Well, I wrestled with him for a day and saw that I was making no headway, when I proposed to send for Hendricks, and have him come there. That was Saturday, and I said I could have him there by next Wednesday. Tilden said they had better meet accidentally at Saratoga. I telegraphed Mr. Hendricks to come at once to Saratoga, and he did so, but the result was a disagreement, and Mr. Hendricks left having told Tilden that he wanted every word and letter of the platform lived up to or he would not be upon it. Tilden took the matter under advisement, and was assured that without Hendricks he would be lost in the West, and perhaps in the South, and then he solicited a second meeting, and it took just long enough to call the roll of the House to have the bill passed, and Hendricks accepted."

FIVE PERSONS MURDERED.

AN INSANE MAN KILLS A MAN, A WOMAN, AND A CHILD—TWO HOMICIDES IN THE WEST.

BELFAST, Me., Jan. 27.—At Montville, about 15 miles from this city, on Saturday evening, John McFarland, a farmer, his wife, and granddaughter were murdered by one Rowell, an insane man. Mrs. McFarland was shot with a gun, and the others had their brains beaten out. The murderer was afterward shot and killed by a neighbor whom he had attacked.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 27.—Mrs. W. C. C. Foster, a widow residing alone, three miles east of this city, was brutally murdered last night by some unknown villains, who left her dead in her bed with a hammer where it is thought she was killed.

ROCKFORD, Ill., Jan. 27.—Marshall S. Pritchard, Town Collector of Cherry Valley, was mysteriously murdered here yesterday. His body, with rifled pockets, was found at the outskirts of the city, with a ball in the head from a revolver, which lay beside him, and a deep gash in the temple. Several persons are under suspicion.

FIRE IN THE WILLIAMSTOWN COAL MINE.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 27.—A dispatch received to-day from the Vice-President of the company operating at Williamstown, Penn., says that the fire at the Williamstown Colliery is now well under control, and in the course of another day it will be entirely extinguished. He says none of the slopes are injured, and the damage is confined to the burning of the engines and drum at the top of the slope, and the loss by suffocation of about 20 mules. He claims that the aggregate loss will probably not exceed $20,000. The colliery can be partially operated during the progress of the repairs, which will require two months.

A dispatch from Millerstown, Penn., says the fire at the colliery at Williamstown obtained a fresh start during the night, and continued burning briskly until morning. This dispatch places the aggregate loss at $50,000 to $60,000. The amount of insurance is unknown.

THE LATE JUDGE HALYBURTON.

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 27.—The funeral of the late Judge James D. Halyburton, who died last evening, took place this afternoon, and was attended by members of the Bar in a body, including the Judges of the Supreme Court of Appeals and a large number of leading citizens. Judge Halyburton served as United States Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia from President Tyler's Administration until the beginning of the late war; also, as Judge of the Confederate States Court during the war. He was considered one of Virginia's most distinguished sons. He was 76 years of age.

DEATH FROM A FALL ON THE ICE.

EASTON, Penn., Jan. 27.—E. H. Green, one of the proprietors of Stewart's rolling-mills, at South Easton, fell on the ice near his home on Tuesday last and broke his left arm and injured himself internally, from the effects of which he died this morning. He was at one time President of the Easton Town Council.

ACCUSED OF TRYING TO EVADE THEIR DEBTS.

BOSTON, Jan. 27.—Albert C. Andrews and James W. Coltman were arraigned to-day, charged with conspiring to defraud their creditors, and were each held in $2,000 bail for trial. The defendants demanded an immediate examination, but the Government was not ready to proceed, and a continuance was granted.

THIEVES ADMITTING THEIR GUILT.

CHICAGO, Ill., Jan. 27.—Charles Woodward and George Lee, alias "Snatchem," thieves, who stole $12,000 worth of jewelry from Max Freund, a traveling jeweler, who had a room in the Palmer House, pleaded guilty this morning in the Criminal Court, and were remanded. Woodward turned State's evidence. The goods have been recovered.

SWINDLING HOTEL PROPRIETORS.

BOSTON, Jan. 27.—Dr. Charles L. Williams, of Washington, D. C., has been arrested here for passing a forged draft for $25 on the Suffolk Bank in this city. He is said to have made a business of swindling hotel proprietors in small places in the South and West.

LOUISIANA SENATORIAL CONTEST.

NEW-ORLEANS, La., Jan. 27.—The Senatorial caucus has agreed to drop the lowest candidate. The 25th ballot stood: Eustis, Kenner, and Jonas 25 each; Manning, 1.

THE PEORIA FREIGHT POOL BROKEN.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—The Peoria freight pool, which for three months, since its formation, has had only nominal existence, has been completely broken up by the resignation of Commissioner J. H. Steed, and does not now exist even by name.

BLINDNESS CAUSED BY AN EXPLOSION.

OTTAWA, Jan. 27.—A boy named Hinton, employed in a drug store, made up a prescription in which were quicksilver and nitric acid. In shaking the mixture an explosion occurred, smashing the bottle to atoms and destroying the boy's sight.

THE NEW METROPOLITAN OF CANADA.

MONTREAL, Quebec, Jan. 27.—Bishop Medley, of Frederickton, was elected Metropolitan of Canada, at the House of Bishops, held in the Synod office to-day. There were present the Bishops of Frederickton, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Algoma, Niagara, and Montreal.

THE MUCH-ABUSED PARTY.

PITY THE POOR DEMOCRATS.

COMPLAINING BEFORE THE TELLER COMMITTEE OF THE CRUELTY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA REPUBLICANS.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 27.—The Teller committee was occupied mainly to-day in hearing Democratic testimony as to the conduct of the canvass and election in Williamsburg and Sumter Counties. State Senator Maurice testified that the Republicans in Williamsburg were lukewarm and divided, and that the character of Swails, the Republican leader, was bad; it was in consequence of Swails' threats that he was given notice that he would be held responsible for any bloodshed or house-burning, and that he had better leave the country.

Circuit Solicitor Hirsch, a Republican until 1877, said that he had investigated, by Gov. Hampton's direction, the different charges made by Swails, and found that the White Oak meeting was not held to advocate Mr. Rainey's election; that Swails was not arrested by the "Red Shirts," and that no threats had been made against Swails, except that he would be held to account for any bloodshed or incendiarism.

Jack Epps, a colored preacher, testified that he abstained from voting at the election, and in consequence was debarred by the colored Republicans from ministering in the Baptist churches he had regularly served.

J. S. Hayward, white, testified that the invitation to Swails to ride into King's Tree with the "Red Shirts" was freely accepted by Swails when he had been assured that no harm would be done to him.

J. R. Chandler, white, testified that armed negroes surrounded the Cedar Swamp Precinct, saying the ballots should not be counted; the ballot-box was sent off on a by-path, while the negroes lay in wait for it in the usual road; it was the intention of the negroes to murder the managers and seize the box.

The first Democratic witness from Richland County was Paul Ludwig, of Columbia, who testified as to the peacefulness of the election. This witness went to Sumter with the cannon on Oct. 12, and testified that only blank cartridges were taken, and that one gun was run up to the Court-house without orders, because a riot was going on.

Jacob Lee, colored, Democrat, had been told by Republicans upon his vote to be hanged, and his wife burned; many colored Democrats had been threatened, and their red shirts torn off; others had been pulled from their horses, and their wives advised to leave them; he saw large numbers of colored Republicans vote the Democratic ticket. Coleman Beattie, colored, Democrat, was told that every colored Democrat ought to be hanged or burned. Andrew Johnson, colored, Democrat, had been threatened, abused, and beaten by colored Republicans on account of his politics, and his children had been beaten and driven from school. James Minus, colored, had been cursed and threatened, and his children kissed at because he was a Democrat; he had been shot in the face and his head was broken. Two other colored Democrats told the same story.

This closed Richland County, and Edward Perry, printer, of Charleston, was put on the stand. He swore that he printed 10,000 Republican tissue tickets for Jos. H. McLeod, the Republican candidate for Congress, at the last election.

SITTING BULL'S PLEA FOR MERCY.

HE PROMISES TO FIGHT NO MORE FOREVER—REPORTS THAT HIS BAND HAS CROSSED THE LINE.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 27.—A special to the *Pioneer Press* gives news brought by runners from Standing Rock Agency. Messengers from Sitting Bull's camp just arrived at the agency, represent him as anxious to return there, where his tribe once lived, and where the Uncapapas, who are in close tribal relations with his band, still are. These messengers confirm the reports received at Cheyenne Agency of the destitute and hungry condition of Sitting Bull's band, and bring the following message of the Uncapapas: "We have had enough and wish to return. We are starving and have no more arrows. My people are cold and hungry; my women are sad, and my children are freezing. I will do as the Great Father wishes. I will give my guns and my ponies into his hands. My arrows are broken and my war-paint thrown to the winds."

These are the news brought by these messengers to confirm previous reports of the crossing of the line by Sitting Bull. Otherwise their representations agree with those of previous emissaries to Cheyenne. It is believed here that Sitting Bull will return at once if assured of food and protection.

NEW-JERSEY'S ADMINISTRATION.

THE GOVERNOR GIVES A FEW GOOD POSITIONS TO DEMOCRATS AND MANY MINOR OFFICES TO REPUBLICANS—THE NEW CITY CHARTER BILL.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 27.—The air has been full all the afternoon of rumors that Gov. McClellan had decided to send to the Senate, for confirmation, a batch of Republican nominations. The rumor was only partially verified by the list which Private-Secretary Ball handed to the Senate this evening. Very many of the names on it are those of Republicans, but with his eye steadily on the main chance, the Governor has been careful to deal out all the big leaves to Democrats. He did not even follow the rule of nominating Republicans for places about to be vacated by Republicans. He presented the name of a Republican successor to a Democratic incumbent that was scarcely to be expected, but two of the most important nominations made are of Democrats to fill places now filled creditably and acceptably by Republicans. Ladlow McCarter, a Democratic lawyer of Newark, is named as successor to the commissioner of Insurance of Hon. C. S. Tilsworth, a Republican. In this county John H. Stewart, Democrat, is named to succeed Judge Buchanan, a Republican, as Presiding Judge of the Common Pleas. Having thus given away the two pieces of highest honor to his party friends, he intends to make amends for giving most of the minor and less lucrative places to the Republicans. His nominees for Lay Judges in the several counties are as follows: Gloucester, John Moore; Cape May, J. E. Hughes; Burlington, William Perry; Morris, Freeman Wood; Hudson, A. W. Fry, all of whom are Republicans; Camden, Joseph Kennedy, Democrat; Salem, Joseph Cook; Cumberland, Alphaeus Woodruff; Hunterdon, J. F. Hoffman; Warren, James Somerville, and Bergen, W. S. Banta, whose political tendencies could not be learned this evening. The nominations were all referred in executive session to the Judiciary Committee. The Senate confirmed Mr. Small as Fish Commissioner, and James P. Bonnell as Harbormaster.

The Jersey City charter, outlined last week, was under consideration this evening by the House Committee on Municipal Corporations. What would seem to be a fatal defect in one of its vital provisions has been discovered. In order to evade the constitutional prohibitions against the management of the internal affairs of cities by special and local acts, the bill provides that upon the call of any 100 citizens the Mayor of any city in the State shall, within two weeks, order an election to take the sense of the people upon accepting or rejecting the terms of the bill. The bill is only designed to be applicable to Jersey City, and it is questionable whether that Democratic city, on a popular vote, will accept the reforms, however much needed, that may be suggested by a Republican Legislature. The more serious objection is that there is no limit as to the frequency of these preliminary elections. The committee will not report the bill, however, before the end of the week. By that time it hopes to have other charters to consider. The Attorney-General was asked last week to submit to the House an opinion as to whether the clause of the Constitution empowering the election of Lay Judges in joint meeting was not as effective as the clause vesting the appointments in the Governor. It would have argued more than Spartan virtue in the Attorney-General if he had decided against the Executive who appoints him. To-night he decided, as might have been expected, that the power is with the Governor.

THE ARLINGTON ESTATE LITIGATION.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Jan. 27.—In the United States Circuit Court to-day, the counsel in the Arlington case continued arguments upon instructions to the jury. The Judge stated that to-morrow he would decide upon two instructions asked for by the plaintiff and one of those asked for by the defendants.

DISASTERS TO VESSELS.

LONDON, Jan. 27.—The British ship Nelson, Capt. Murphy, from Liverpool Jan. 16, for San Francisco, returned to Queenstown Jan. 26, with her steering gear disabled.

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, Jan. 27.—The steamship Quebec, of the Dominion Line, left here during the storm Saturday for Portland. Soon afterward the heaver fouled her propeller, and she drifted on the shoal ground at the upper end of the dock-yard. She got off at high tide without damage, and anchored in the harbor.

NEW-BEDFORD, Mass., Jan. 27.—The schooner Ida L., of Centerville, bound from Surinam for Boston, which went ashore on Gay-head last evening, got off, and proceeded to Vineyard Haven for repairs.

THE MAJOR RENO INQUIRY.

MORE TESTIMONY AS TO THE ATTACK BY THE INDIANS UPON RENO'S COMMAND.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—Capt. Moylan was again on the stand to-day at the Reno inquiry. He was asked as to whether he remembered a conversation had by him with Lieut. Wallace, in the timber, regarding the strength of the Indians. The witness replied that he remembered of some such conversation, at the end of which, turning to a half-breed scout named Jackson, he asked him if he would take word to Gen. Custer regarding the strength of the Indians. But the scout, motioning with his hand to the Indians circling around the command, said "no man could get through there alive."

George Herendeen, of Bozeman, whose vocation is, as he expressed it, "running the prairie," testified that he was with Reno, and saw no Indians opposing the advance of the troops, and after the command dismounted to dismount, he, with three other scouts, went to the extreme left, and, dismounting, sat down to watch the firing of the troops; there were no Indians to fire at from where he was, and he thought the firing of the troops was rather rapid; he saw no great number of Indians anywhere, except down the bottom; afterward he was present with Reno when the retreat began; the soldiers were much frightened; before the retreat, and while he was in the timber, he heard firing in the direction of Gen. Custer; he thought it was Custer down the river; his impression had been confirmed since. The witness said that from Reno's position to Gen. Custer must have been two miles from his last battle-field; the effective fighting force of the Indians, he thought, was about 2,500; he did not think the Indians could have driven 100 men with 5,000 or 6,000 rounds of ammunition out of the timber where Reno's command was.

Capt. E. S. Payne, of the Fifth Cavalry, testified that he made a measurement, on Aug. 29 last, from the place where Custer was killed to Reno's intrenchment on the hill; the measurement was practically by "chaining," by means of lariats measured and tied together; the shot was a vertical route, and almost a straight line; this distance was four miles and 160 yards; there were bones of horses and men scattered around where Custer was slain. The testimony bearing upon the distance between Reno's final position on the hill after his retreat and the point where Custer fought is of vital importance,

of them had existed for a long time, and some were against the power of the Collector to correct, it was not fair to impute them all to his predecessor, but he was responsible for them, though he had been longer in office than any of his predecessors, for 10 years, having been first appointed Dec. 21, 1871. During the period of his service his compensation amounted to $155,800 36, a detailed statement of which is herewith transmitted. An officer charged with the high duties of Collector of the Port of New-York, and receiving such compensation, ought properly to be held responsible for all abuses that grew up or continued during his term of office, and the existence of such abuses is sufficient, if within his power, to warrant them, to justify his removal. The President was strongly of opinion upon reports of the Jay Commission, that the public interest demanded a change in the leading officers in the New-York Custom-house. I proposed to try to execute the reforms proposed with Mr. Arthur in office, rather than a stranger. The President acquiesced in this view, but probably it became evident that neither Mr. Arthur nor Mr. Cornell were in sympathy with the recommendations of the commission, and still and did resist their fair execution. The President became entirely satisfied that if he hoped to make a change in both offices, but the Senate, however, deemed it best not to confirm the nomination of Messrs. Roosevelt and Pelton. A brief experience convinced many honest of earnest and zealous reformers or change in the mode of conducting business would be abortive while the Collector held his position. The same system, the same persons, the same influence prevailed as before. From the nature of things it was difficult for a Collector long associated with the chief subordinates under him to believe evil of any of them. Mr. Lyndon, the Deputy Collector, was practically Collector. Gen. Arthur did not give that personal attention to the business of the office that would seem to be necessary for the proper discharge of his duties. He did not usually arrive at his office until afternoon. I respectfully call your attention to the report of General Appraiser John P. Meredith and special Agent W. Bingham and R. H. Shaw, of date of July 17, 1878, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. These officers say, in regard to Collector Arthur: "It seems to our notice early in our investigation that the Collector, as a rule, neglected to appear at his office until midday or after. It was claimed by his special deputy, Mr. Lyndon, in explanation (the Collector being absent on leave) that he made up the late arrivals at his office by remaining after hours. This, however, we do not regard as sufficient answer, even if it be true.

"We were surprised subsequently that Collector Arthur, after having been relieved of the connection of his special deputy, Mr. Lyndon, with cabinets to be filled from the Government, and after proofs of such official misconduct had been submitted to him, still appeared to repose in Mr. Lyndon the most implicit confidence, and to allow him to be the chief director of the business transacted in the office. It would also appear from a special report made by these officers of the date of June 25, 1878, that Mr. Lyndon, Chief Deputy, had been guilty of certain conduct and transactions [illegible] together with many detailed reports of efficiency of this department, convinced me, after several months' trial and consideration, that, without any arrangement of the personal character of Collector Arthur and the Naval Officer, the public interests demanded the removal of the officers in these offices. Mr. Cornell held simply a sinecure position, his real duties being discharged by his deputy, and Mr. Burt is now performing the duties both of Naval Officer and those formerly discharged by him as Controller, the latter office having been discontinued. In the selection of successors great care was taken that men of business, whose long experience and fidelity in public service gave ample assurance for a faithful and constant discharge of their duties.

THE NEW SHOWING.

It is manifest that during Gen. Merritt's incumbency as Surveyor and Collector, which latter position he accepted with reluctance, a general improvement has taken place, and the only evidence from any quarter of charges of fraudulent conduct in which the affairs of the Custom-house have been conducted arises from those who complain of the strict enforcement of the law. It is respectfully submitted that under the circumstances the restoration of Messrs. Arthur and Cornell would be a serious injury to the public service, involving a loss of public revenue and an increased expenditure. It would establish a constant irritation and struggle between old abuses that existed and reforms that are sought to be accomplished.

It would be unjust to the President and personally embarrassing to me in the discharge of duties imposed by the office of Collector of Customs at New-York held by one who will not perform his duties according to the general policy of the department. Gen. Arthur's term of service expires on Dec. 17, 1879, and his restoration would be but temporary, even if the President desired it, and he would have to renew his nomination. There is no doubt I believe, but that he has served his political purpose in the adjournment of the Senate. The very marked success of the administration of Collector Merritt and Naval Officer Burt would seem to entitle them to the recognition of the Senate, and to their confirmation."

COLLECTOR ARTHUR'S DEFENSE.

The following is the reply of Gen. Arthur to the communication addressed to the Senate by the Secretary of the Treasury on the 15th inst.:

NEW-YORK, Jan. 21, 1879.

Hon. Bonaz Cowling, Chairman:

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of Jan. 16, transmitting copy of one of the Senate and the statement of Secretary Sherman, a copy of the communication addressed to the Senate by Hon. John Sherman, Secretary of the Treasury, under date of Jan. 15, and purporting to state the reasons of my suspension from the office of Collector of this port. For the opportunity to answer the assertions of this paper I am deeply grateful. I cannot, without a longer delay that would be justifiable, reply as fully as I would like to all of the statements of Mr. Sherman, but I think I shall have no difficulty in satisfying the Senate that if, as a personally judicial case, his communication contains all that can be said against my administration of the office of Collector, my suspension was not only directly contrary to all the professions of the Administration, but was in violation of every principle of justice. When an Administration deliberately avows and constantly reiterates that removal from office is to take place only for cause, it is obvious, no matter what may be said to the contrary, that a removal must, at least in the estimation of that portion of the public which has felt the directly opposite policy of the Administration, carry with it a stigma upon the character of the removed officer, and this stigma is not fully removed even if the first notice of intended removal is accompanied—as was the case with me—with an urgent offer of an important position appointment under another department of the Government.

Mr. Sherman, in the opening of his communication, refers to the criticisms made in Congress in the press, and in private on the New-York Custom-house. It is notorious that during the nearly seven years I was in office there was much less complained of in the administration of the New-York Custom-house than for many years before. The laws have been greatly criticised, and to some extent changed. My administration of them has been rarely complained of. Mr. Sherman relies greatly upon the report of the Jay Commission, and, in his communication to the Senate, implicitly accepts its statements as true. It will, I respectfully submit, be seen that its actions be thrown little discredit upon them. It is important, however, that the constitution and methods of the commission upon which so much reliance is placed, should be known to the senate. In my letter to the Secretary of Nov. 24, 1877, a copy of which is followed, I correctly, or I believe, described them in the following terms:

THE JAY COMMISSION NOT IMPARTIAL.

"There can be no pretense that in the commission as finally constituted, any one represented the officers of the port, or was even believed to be the friend of the officers. The commission thus constituted sought for all those could be said against the officers of Customs, giving no opportunity for cross-examination and little for rebuttal or explanation, and, of course, took a partial and one-sided view. They did not proceed to investigate thoroughly any question, nor seek for evidence on both sides. Not only did the public advertisement, but by hundreds of letters, their invited merchants supposed to be aggrieved to present their complaints. I suppose the testimony will show, however, that the prominent and honorable merchants of this port made no complaints against the administration of the laws during the last five years. The merchants mentioned their complaints as this, and it apparently did not occur to them that the real complaints was that those whose opinions were entitled to any weight had no complaint to make, but were, on the contrary, satisfied, if given an opportunity, to bear testimony in favor of the manner in which the duties of the officers were performed. The commission either refused to receive testimony in answer to such complaints as were, in fact, made to them, or when it was forced upon them, wholly disregarded it. Moreover, it did not seem to occur to them that while they were in a position to bear most strong testimony to the manner in which the Customs service at this port had been conducted, their duty and their interest required that they should be informed, from the reports, of charges that had been investigated, and in which have rendered the service more efficient than at any previous period in the history of the Government. Even adding the testimony of the commission proper, it, without any alleviations from those entered, without opportunity being given to cross-examine the witnesses, or to show the spirit which actuated them, I am confident that if you will find that most very respectable competent witnesses is, you will come to the conclusion that it is wholly false to bear out the sweeping and general allegations of the commission. I trust that if the reports shall be submitted to Congress the testimony accompany them."

AS TO PECUNIARY FEES AND GRATUITIES.

Mr. Sherman says that the second report of the Jay Commission shows that it was a common practice among clerks, &c., to receive from merchants and brokers fees in the form of gratuities. While the Jay Commission made some general statements which may seem to justify the inference, I have no hesitation in saying (through Mr. Sherman) has carefully and evidently kept the evidence before them concerning the fees paid to clerks. I do not question that certain presents may exist to some extent, but it is almost impossible to obtain proof of them. The payment of fees to entry clerks and some other officers of Mr. Sherman says, is prohibited, and in my letter of May 17, 1877, referred to the second report of the Jay Commission, both the general the receiver and employer from receiving and giving such gratuities. I believe that the statement of Mr. Sherman is only to show my anxiety and determination to enforce the law

MULBERRY-STREET AFFAIRS

GEN. SMITH AND MR. NICHOLS TALKING.

MATTER OF COURTESY—ABOUT THE STREET-CLEANING COMMITTEE—SENATOR BLAINE'S OPINION—POLITICIANS AND POLICEMEN.

Gen. Smith, President of the Board of Police, during an interview with a TIMES reporter yesterday, in relation to the difficulties in the board, said that when charges were made specifically against him he would reply to them, and until then he did not deem to rush into print on the subject. In Sunday's TIMES, however, it was charged that he had by his negative vote defeated the proposition for the retirement of a number of members of the Police force, and in reply to this charge Gen. Smith said yesterday that he believed the resolutions offered by Mr. Erhardt to retire the men referred to were in direct violation of law, and he therefore voted against them. In regard to the resolution offered by Commissioner Erhardt to invest the members of the Street-cleaning Committee with power to suspend any officer or employe of the bureau for inefficiency or dishonesty, Gen. Smith said that he was not opposed to the adoption of the resolution, but he felt that it was due to Commissioner Wheeler, as a matter of courtesy, that so important a resolution should be laid over until he was present. Commissioner Nichols coincided with him in this view of the matter, and expressed himself in favor of the resolution, but was opposed to its consideration in the absence of Mr. Wheeler. Mr. Erhardt pressed the matter to vote, and it was then moved by Mr. Nichols that the resolution should be laid over. On this motion he (Smith) and Nichols voted "yes," and Mr. Erhardt declining to vote, the motion to lay over was lost. On the question of adopting the resolution, Commissioners Erhardt and Nichols voted in the affirmative, but Gen. Smith, adopting Commissioner Erhardt's tactics, declined to vote, and the resolution was defeated. In reference to the charge of Commissioner Erhardt that Mr. Nichols had made an "insinuated" statement, Gen. Smith yesterday said that nothing in relation to the matter was mentioned. Mr. Nichols would reply to that insinuation when he arrived in town.

Commissioner Nichols made a statement similar to that made by Gen. Smith in relation to the resolution offered by Mr. Erhardt relative to the power of the members of the Street-cleaning Committee to suspend employes of the bureau. He said that while he was in favor of the resolution and voted for it, he was opposed to its consideration while Mr. Wheeler was absent.

In an interview with a reporter of the Evening Post, Gen. Smith spoke of a statement that during his illness of the Commissioners Nichols and Erhardt the board was held for nearly a fortnight, and that this fact was due to the refusal of the President to meet with his colleagues in Mr. Nichols' absence. He said that Mr. Erhardt had lately declined to vote on any bills which came before the board, and as he (Gen. Smith) held that no resolution could be adopted unless it was by the majority of the board voted, he regarded it as useless to call a meeting when Mr. Nichols could not be present. The correctness of his ruling on this matter of voting had been denied by Commissioner Erhardt, and the question had been referred to the Corporation Counsel, who had not yet given his opinion. Gen. Smith said that, although he was not usually one of parliamentary law, and being confident that he was right in the matter, he had written a letter submitting the question to Senator Blaine. He had received the following reply:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 15, 1879.

DEAR GENERAL: You submit to me this case: A Board of Commissioners is created by law, consisting of four members. It is provided by law that three of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. At a meeting where three were present, including the President of the board as one of them, the President brought forward and put to vote a resolution. The ayes and nays were called and recorded. The President of the board and one member voted in the affirmative; but the third member declined to vote. Thereupon the President declared the resolution not carried. Was his decision right?

Answer—The decision of the President was unquestionably right. The mere personal presence of the third member did not constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Ohio statute of this law, a case involving the same point has very frequently arisen in the House of Representatives, where, on submitting a question to a vote by yeas and nays, less than a quorum voted. A call of the House being then ordered, a quorum answered to their names, and again the question was submitted to less than a quorum voted; and this was followed by another call, showing the presence of a quorum, and then in unanimous repetition for an entire day. That a majority of a quorum voted for the measure counted as nothing, so long as the quorum was not present and voting.

A member who commands not voting on a viva voce vote is to be treated just as a blank is treated when the vote is by ballot—that is, not counted or registered at all.

In the case submitted, therefore, the third Commissioner by his mere personal presence, without taking part in the proceedings, did not contribute to the formation of a legal quorum any more than if he had been a thousand miles away. J. G. BLAINE.

There is another cause of quarrel between Mr. Erhardt and his fellow-Commissioners. At one of the meetings of the board Mr. Erhardt read a brief article from a certain newspaper condemning the practice of his colleagues in permitting politicians to visit men there while they were engaged in trying members of the Police force against whom various charges had been preferred. At these trials the politicians interfered in behalf of their friends who were arraigned, and it is said that in some instances only those who had influence were dealt with leniently. The others were mulcted in heavy fines. Mr. Erhardt expressed the hope, at the meeting referred to, that the practice of permitting politicians to interfere in behalf of those who had appointed on the force when they in turn were arraigned for trial, would come at once, because if it were persisted in the whole department would become demoralized. But his colleagues declined to take action on the subject. A few facts which were given to the writer will show the evil effects of the interference of politicians in behalf of delinquent policemen. In some instances men guilty of the same offences and assigned to the same station-houses were found guilty, but there was a great difference in the penalties imposed. One was fined a day's pay, another 10 days' pay. Now, as these men are used before all the men in the station-house, and as they are on their trial in inequitable the patrolmen, on hearing them, become convinced that if they would evade justice and secure favors they must have a political patron, and they become demoralized. Not long since a Police Captain followed one of his men while he was in full uniform into a liquor saloon, where he was engaged in drinking, but he escaped with two days' pay, while others against whom comparatively trifling charges had been made, were mulcted in 10 days' pay.

A PIGEON SHOW.

Preparations are being made at the New-York Aquarium for the fourth annual exhibition of the National Columbarian Society, which will open on Tuesday, Nov. 4, and continue for four days only. The exhibition, it is intended, shall far surpass all former pigeon shows in this country. The members of the society are nearly all wealthy pigeon fanciers, who will not only exhibit their own finest birds but also invite competition from breeders of fancy pigeons from all parts of the country. Liberal prizes will be offered for the best birds of each variety, and a special premium will be offered by the Secretary, Mr. R. V. Crawford, No. 121 Fulton-street, on or before Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 28. Rare, odd, handsome, and grotesque pigeons from all parts of the world will be exhibited, some very expensive, and valued as high as $1,200, $1,500 and $1,800 per pair. Among the various kinds which will be present are carriers, horses, fancy tumblers, trumpeters, owls, fantails, turbits, jacobins, priests, nuns, magpies, and many others. The birds will be in wire coops, open on all sides, arranged along the avenues of the Aquarium.

ARRIVAL OF OCEAN STEAMERS.

At 9 o'clock on Sunday morning, about 300 miles off Sandy Hook, the steam-ship Britannia, of the White Star Line, which arrived from Liverpool yesterday, passed an inbound steamer bound west. The latter vessel, which was probably the City of Montreal, was then not more than half a mile distant, and signaled that she had lost her rudder but expected no assistance. It was thought possibly that it might be the City of Chester, which left this port early on Saturday morning. It was the general opinion seems to be that the steamer passed was the City of Montreal. It is thought that she will arrive here some time to-day. The Britannia met with rough weather, and very heavy seas during the passage. During the last two days the weather was extremely cold, and her decks, rigging, masts, lifeboats, and smoke-stack became covered with ice.

The steamship Qualdia, of the Anchor Line, which arrived from London yesterday, experienced very severe weather. Strong westerly gales with hail and sleet and fierce squalls of snow and hail were met with. During the last two days of the passage the weather was extremely cold.

The steamer Arcadia, of the Wilson Line, which arrived from Hull yesterday, encountered hurricanes on the 10th and 20th. The seas were extremely high and irregular.

PUT OFF THE PLATFORM BY FORCE.

William J. Travers, ticket agent, and J. M. Lewis, gate-keeper, at the Eighth-Street Station of the Metropolitan Elevated Railway, were arraigned before Justice Flammer in the Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday, on a charge of assault. The complainant was E. F. Wilder, of No. 203 West Eleventh-street. Mr. Wilder alleged that on the 17th inst. he gave Mr. Travers a $2 bill for a ticket on a down train. After he had got the ticket Travers discovered that the bill was torn at one corner, and refusing to make demanded payment of the return of the bill. Wilder refused to do either, and Travers turned the ticket. Travers called Lewis to his assistance, and together they ejected Wilder to give up the ticket. He resisted violently, and refused to purchase another ticket, insisting that he had already paid another for the same train from Chambers-street. The ticket agent and gate-keeper both alleged that the rules of the company forbade the agent to give other money for a ticket he was entitled from the platform, and, refusing to go, was put off by force. The hearing was adjourned and the defendants paid.

THE NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY.

ANOTHER MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS CALLED FOR.

Mr. William O. McDowell, who got up the recent meeting of stockholders of the defunct National Trust Company, whereat an overwhelming vote of confidence was passed in the Receiver, Mr. William J. Best, has called another meeting of the stockholders of the same company for Feb. 12, in Room No. 11 of the Coal and Iron Exchange. In his call he enumerates the following alleged charges against the Receiver, disavowing, however, as to their truth or falsity:

"*First*—That the ground on which this company was placed in the hands of the Special Examiner of the Bank Department of the State of New-York, whose report, and the fact of whose examination had wrecked its credit, as its Receiver, was that it was insolvent. This has been proved false; it has paid its debts, and has a large surplus.

"*Second*—That the Trustees caused illegal loans to be made that the charter did not authorize, and that they have thus made themselves personally responsible to the stockholders for all resulting damages.

"*Third*—That when Mr. William J. Best, the Special Examiner, had almost completed his investigation, the Trustees, at a meeting of the board, appointed S. S. Constant, J. S. Lowery, and W. T. Allen, a committee to interview Mr. Best and report back; that, in place of doing this they entered into an arrangement, by means of which they, as stockholders, applied to the court for the appointment of Mr. Best as Receiver, and have never reported back to the board.

"*Fourth*—That the Trustees that took this responsibility, without calling together the stockholders and reporting the exact facts, and if, in the opinion of the Banking Department, the capital was impaired, letting them either assess themselves for the deficiency or make their stock, which they could have given us at least 75 cents on the dollar in a stock that would have sold at par, rather than the present dreary prospect—that the Trustees who voluntarily took this responsibility should be personally held to it.

"*Fifth*—That the Receiver has sold at private sale, indiscreetly, the Trustees' certain mortgages (possibly the same ones on which it is claimed they made illegal loans,) at a loss to the company, on present market value, of over $200,000.

"*Sixth*—That the expenses of the Receivership have been, or will be, if we do not look after it, excessively large."

The following resolutions are sent out for signature, notice being given in advance that no one will be admitted to the meeting who does not approve them in writing, and return them before the hour of meeting:

Resolved, That a committee of ——— stockholders of the National Trust Company of New-York, no one of whom shall have been, at any time, a Trustee of that company, shall be elected at a meeting, to be held in the public meeting-room, No. 11 Coal and Iron Exchange, between Church and Cortlandt-streets, in New-York, on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 1879, at 10 A. M., by the parties answering these resolutions on or before that date.

Resolved, That this committee, when elected, shall have full power, both in and out of court, to represent the approving stockholders, and to investigate the affairs of the National Trust Company, both before and after the resignation of the Trustees and Receiver, and if they find a state of facts that, in their judgment, will enable them to hold personally liable either or all of the officers or Receiver of said company, to the extent of the recovery, for us, of the full par value of our stock, they shall have full power to take all necessary proceedings.

THE BONDS OF A LEASED RAILROAD.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company owned a majority of the stock of the Pittsburg, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad Company, which had, in 1869, leased the Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central Road. An agreement was entered into between the three corporations that 30 per cent. of the gross earnings of the leased road should be deposited by the two lessees to guarantee the bonds of the leased road. These bonds were stamped on the back with the statement, "Payment of interest and principal of the entire series of bonds mentioned herein is guaranteed by the Pittsburg, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railway Company and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company." Augustus G. Brown bought three of the bonds, as he says, on the faith of this indorsement. The Pennsylvania Company paid the interest on the bonds until April 1, 1876, when default was made. Brown brought suit, in 1877, in the Supreme Court, against the Pennsylvania Company for the amount of the interest coupons for two years. The company demurred to the complaint on various grounds, among them being these: That the agreement between the Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central Company and its lessees did not insure to the bondholders the earnings until they have placed themselves in a position to assert the rights of the corporation; that the guarantee is not to them, but to the corporation, and that they are strangers to the contract between the three companies. The plaintiff, however, insisted that the statements in the complaint, if taken as true, show conclusively on the part of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company an estoppel from denying liability to the creditors of the Indiana Central; that its action in paying the interest coupons of the bonds of the latter for several years was an assumption of a duty, and that the receipt of money for the benefit of the Indiana Central bondholders made the defendant a Trustee for such bondholders. The case came before Judge Donohue, at Special Term, recently, and judgment was given in favor of the Pennsylvania Company. Brown appealed to the General Term, where the case was argued yesterday, the decision being reserved. Messrs. Beach & Brown represented the plaintiff, and Hon. Stanley Matthews appeared for the company.

A LETTER-CARRIER'S CRIME.

John Flood, an auxiliary letter-carrier, appointed in August, 1877, was arrested in the Post Office on Sunday evening on a charge of purloining letters from the mails. The prisoner is a man of about 27 years of age, resides at No. 66 Hudson-street, and has a wife and two children. On Sunday night he had been out on a collection trip, and brought his letters to the office. He was seen by certain of the Post Office clerks, who were watching him, to take a number of letters and put them in his coat pocket. Superintendent Richards sent for Special Agent Sharrotts and Police Officer Blackwood, and had Flood taken into custody. Flood has been suspected for some weeks, and was seen acting suspiciously on Saturday night, but it was thought best not to subject him to the ordeal until incontrovertible proof of his guilt could be obtained. His plan of operations was to purloin letters from bundles in the boxes of other carriers, so as to divert suspicion from himself if complaints should be made as to the non-delivery of letters. The watch was set upon him about two months since, but he fell sick shortly afterward, and only began duty to duty about a week since. When arrested 21 unopened letters were found on him, 20 of them being addressed to E. L. Plumb, a lottery-ticket dealer, and one to the *Iron Age*, a trade journal. Flood was taken before United States Commissioner Shields and waived examination. He was committed to await the action of the Grand Jury in default of $5,000 bail. He had in his pockets $42, which he admitted having taken from lottery on Saturday and Sunday. His salary was only $400 a year.

MORE DELAY FOR THE COUNTY CLERK.

A stay of proceedings in the case of J. Adriance Bush against County Clerk Gambleton, pending the appeal of the defendant from the writ of peremptory mandamus issued by Judge Barrett, was finally granted yesterday by Judge Donohue, in the Supreme Court, Circuit, Part 1. In his decision Judge Donohue says: "A full consideration of the case, after carefully going over all the facts, shows me no reason to change the conclusion reached in the opinion on the former motion. It is to be regretted that apparently strong feeling on both sides should have become a part of the case; but that does not change the rule that should govern the result here. Good faith is pledged by counsel of good standing in taking the appeal here, and no ground is shown to prejudice the relator's rights by the delay. To make the appeal of any use, as stated in the former opinion, a stay is necessary, and should be granted. There is no reason in the ordinary course of events, why the question ought to be delayed or should not be finally disposed of by the court of last resort within the next 90 days. No instance has been cited where, on a similar application, a stay has been refused." Motion granted.

KILLED BY A LOCOMOTIVE.

A milkman, living at Dutch Kills, named Robert Dunnie, attempted to cross the track of the Flushing and North Shore Railroad, at Thompson-avenue, Long Island City, in front of the train due at the Point at 8:30 yesterday morning. The horse got safely over, but the locomotive struck the wagon, tearing it to splinters, and scattering the milk-cans in all directions, and mangled Dunnie in a fearful manner, so that he must have died instantly. He was thrown several feet, and portions of the wagon were carried some distance on the cowcatcher. Coroner Dayton took charge of the body, impanneled a jury, and will hold an inquest on Monday.

ON TRIAL FOR CONSPIRACY.

In the Passaic County (N. J.) Court of Quarter Sessions yesterday, Arthur Greenwood and his associates, Mosher and Hotel, were placed on trial for conspiracy to induce Henry Lewis, of Passaic, to sell liquor on Sunday. The case will, doubtless, be given to the jury to-day. The Passaic city authorities offered a reward of $50 for every conviction of a violation of the Liquor laws, and Greenwood caused the arrest and conviction of Albert Ely (alias Meyers). It is alleged that he resorted to trickery to induce Ely to sell and hence the indictment. At his trial, a well-known Justice of the Peace of Passaic, who indicted for not sending to the Grand Jury the usual bills of costs in criminal cases against Ely, he admitted not guilty. He may but want to send up the bills, but they were mislaid, and then he made up his mind to send them only to the Grand Jury after the Grand Jury got through.

JACOB OTT, PLATE-PRINTER.

A SECRET SERVICE OFFICER'S STORE—THE MAN WHO "MADE THOUSANDS" OF COUNTERFEITS.

Jacob Ott, the lithograph plate-printer, who is charged with having printed the spurious bank notes for the counterfeiters, Ulrich and Cole, was arraigned for examination yesterday before United States Commissioner Dezel. Assistant United States Attorney Fiero conducted the case for the Government, and ex-Judge Dittenhoefer defended the prisoner. Capt. Curtis, Mr. Gilliland, and other Secret Service officers were present during the examination. M. G. Bowers, a detective in the Secret Service, testified that he made the prisoner's acquaintance Nov. 13, 1878, at No. 9 Spring-street, a drinking saloon, and made it his business to have talks with him on that and subsequent occasions; Bowers gave an assumed name and claimed to have been a yellow fever refugee, which led to conversations about the South-west; Ott said he had worked in St. Louis and Cincinnati at his trade as a printer. On Nov. 16, while conversing, Bowers displayed a $100 and a $50 national bank note, and Ott remarked that he could make such notes, and had made them. Bowers explained his possession of the money by saying he had just been paid off. They were national bank notes, but he could not now remember what banks they were issued from. Continuing his conversation with Ott, Bowers said, "If you can make them, we can make a good deal of money together," and Ott replied that he had made thousands of them. On the 19th of November they had another talk about the matter, and they finally arranged to go to Philadelphia together. After partaking of a lunch at the Revere House, in this City, Ott said: "You saw in the newspapers about there being so many counterfeit $50 bills in Germany, and so many engravers being swindled by them?" Bowers replied that he had seen the statements, and Ott replied: "I printed them all!" Ott said he went to Philadelphia, and we make some more $5 pieces. One night we burned up about 5,000 pieces, as the man that we worked for (supposed to be Cole) became scared, and came in and said the detectives were after us, so we burned them up to get rid of them." Ott also said that he made the plates of the $50 and $5 bills, or could get them.

They went to Philadelphia a short time since, and on the way there Bowers told Ott that if he would get the plates they could make money easily, and Ott agreed to get them. After reaching Philadelphia they went out one evening toward Germantown Junction, near the Baltimore depot, and on the way Ott told Bowers that Mr. Cole was the man he worked for, and that Cole's wife, Ellen, was the smartest woman he had ever seen in this business. From the general drift of conversation Bowers was led to believe that the brother to whom Ott referred was Ulrich. When they had got out on the road Ott also told Bowers that he had given Cole the money he had taken with his [Ott's] wife, growing out of this business, because, whenever she wanted money to buy things, and Ott said he hadn't any to spare, she would dress herself up and say threateningly that she was going into the city to "give the whole thing away" to the Government officers unless Ott gave her the money. Ott said that of course he had to give her the money. Ott finally pointed out to Bowers a house which he said belonged to the President of the Centennial Commission, and said that, from one corner of the lot, counting 18 trees as a distance, and at a certain point in a clump of weeds there was a plate which he had hidden. Bowers said that they then there at night always, and never kept them in the house over night for fear of a raid by detectives. On that same evening they together made a search for the plates in the place Ott had indicated, but did not succeed, it being quite dark. Ott then arranged that they should go back next morning for them, but in addition Ott had had a conversation with a man unknown to witness, and who controlled Ott, and when Bowers again met him he declined to say or do anything further about it.

Ex-Judge Dittenhoefer cross-examined the witness, prefacing it by saying that on its face the statement was very weak, as coming from a man supposed to be hard drinking strong drink, and the witness could not even remember the name of the bank which had issued the two bills shown by him to Ott, and which, as he claimed, Ott had said he had counterfeited. He directed his questions mainly toward these points, and Bowers stoutly adhered to his statement of all our claims, whether they were from loyal or disloyal persons. He might probably except a few religious and educational institutions whose property was destroyed. To pay these was claims would bankrupt the Government, and as we could not pay all, it would be an unjust discrimination to understand that we remunerate one side. Bowers said Warren Mitchell was disloyal and should not be paid, while Senators on the Democratic side said he was loyal and should be paid. What was meant by the word "loyalty?" Did it mean a man devoted to the States under the Constitution? It was an easy matter for a man in Maine or New-York to be a good Union man, but in Mississippi it was another thing. Ott's counsel objected to the testimony of Bowers, as stated above, on the ground that the witness was hired, bail in the case being fixed at $1,000.

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AUCTION SALES—Seventh Page—7th col.
BANKRUPT NOTICES—Seventh Page—5th col.
BOARDING AND LODGING—Seventh Page—5th col.
BUSINESS CHANCES—Seventh Page—5th col.
BUSINESS NOTICES—Fifth Page—7th col.
CITY HOUSES TO LET—Seventh Page—1st col.
CITY ITEMS—Fifth Page—6th col.
CITY REAL ESTATE—Seventh Page—1st col.
COPARTNERSHIP NOTICES—Sixth Page—5th col.
COUNTRY REAL ESTATE—Seventh Page—1st col.
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The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, TUESDAY, JAN. 28, 1879.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

FIFTH-AVENUE THEATRE—Dr. Clow.
BOOTH'S THEATRE.—The Danites.
WALLACK'S THEATRE.—Guy.
UNION-SQUARE.—Baker's Daughter.
LYCEUM THEATRE.—H. M. S. Pinafore.
PARK THEATRE.—Dot.
NIBLO'S GARDEN.—Hero.
STANDARD THEATRE.—H. M. S. Pinafore.
THEATRE COMIQUE.—Vaudeville.
BROADWAY THEATRE.—King Lear.
THE AQUARIUM.—Afternoon and Evening.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.—Minstrelsy.
AMERICAN MUSEUM.—Curiosities.
CRICKERING HALL.—Lecture.
GILMORE'S GARDEN.—Dancing and Music.
COOPER INSTITUTE.—Billiard Tournament.

THE NEW-YORK TIMES.

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The Signal Service Bureau report indicates for to-day in this region, generally cloudy weather and rain, with southerly to westerly winds, falling barometer, followed by rising barometer, and slight fall in temperature.

Estimates differ somewhat widely as to how much money the Arrears of Pensions bill will take from the Treasury. At the meeting of the Cabinet which, with characteristic firmness, decided that the bill ought not to become a law, and that the President should sign it, from eighteen to twenty-three millions seemed to be the range of guesses. Other and equally authoritative conjectures place the amount at from thirty-three to eighty millions. Common sense would have suggested that an approximately correct determination of this question should have been reached before the bill was passed or signed, but common sense is not a strong point at either end of Pennsylvania-avenue. It is reported that there is now some talk of amending the bill into comparative harmlessness by causing the pensions to date from the date of actual disability, instead of from the time of discharge. But the prospect for such an amendment is not bright. The whole business is a curious instance of the "happy-go-lucky" style in which the revenues of the United States—in other words, the contributions of the tax-payers—are treated. The responsibility is so beautifully distributed that no one feels his share of it. The most distinct impression regarding financial matters is received by the men who pay the taxes, and even this is greatly dissipated by the indirect manner in which they are levied.

In view of the pressure for indiscriminate expenditure of which the Pension law is a result, the reissue of legal tenders directed by the law of May last, is a matter of grave and not very remote concern. As distinctly acknowledged by the Secretary of the Treasury, there is in the existing law a source of serious danger, which is now avoided only by the fact that there is no present means of getting the greenbacks out of the Treasury. But this barrier will be soon broken down by such bills as that which has just become a law and which is only one of a class. With even $30,000,000 to pay out, the present smooth working of resumption would be very quickly interfered with. A project has been entertained by some gentlemen, prominent in financial circles, to test the constitutionality of the law for the reissue of the legal tenders. It is known to be the opinion of eminent authorities that the Supreme Court must condemn the law. It would be an excellent thing for the country, a strong guaranty of stability in our financial system, and a powerful check on the reckleness of the Treasury-raiders, if the law could be disposed of in this manner before any pretext for its application could be forced upon the Government. We should be glad to hear that the plan was being energetically carried forward.

Our readers will receive from Collector ARTHUR'S reply to Secretary SHERMAN'S charges a good deal of light as to the singular kind of efficiency with which the Administration is "reforming" the civil service. A more complete, and at the same time temperate and careful, exposure of inconsistency, frivolity, want of common sense, and, it is not too much to add, malice, in the assertions of a public officer has never been made. No action was taken on the confirmation of Mr. MEREDITH, though that gentleman's successor in the Naval Office, Mr. GRAHAM, was confirmed. Mr. HOAR, with remarkable indiscretion, called on the Democratic Senators to sustain the President's nominations, because nothing could be said against them. The argument is misdirected, as well as far from well-founded. The affirmative proposition in reality before the Senate is not that Mr. MEREDITH is fit for the place and should be confirmed, but that Mr. ARTHUR is unfit, and should be removed. This proposition has not been allowed to go uncontradicted, and it is the one which the Senate must decide. Mr. HAYES' own avowal that officers should be secure in their tenure so long as their character remained untarnished and the performance of their duties satisfactory is pertinent to the discussion. Mr. SHERMAN recognizes this, and will make a rejoinder to Mr. ARTHUR.

Considering the frequency and completeness with which the wicked falsehood has been set at rest by Democratic conventions and Democratic candidates—Mr. TILDEN, for instance—the assertion that the Southern war claims constitute a formidable danger to the Treasury still gives the representatives of the party a great deal of trouble. Mr. HILL, of Georgia, revived it in the Senate yesterday in connection with the Warren Mitchell claim. He opposed this and all similar claims with great vehemence, and declared that the sooner they were finally dismissed from consideration the better for the South. He regarded the condition of loyalty attached to the payment of the claims as illusory and incapable of practical enforcement, and Mr. MORGAN, of Alabama, took similar ground. Mr. BECK, of Kentucky, freely admitted that many of the claims were fraudulent, but bitterly attacked Senator HILL for making a "stump speech." The interesting feature in the discussion is that it is carried on from both sides by Democrats, and betrays the wholesome fear which some of their leaders feel of an aroused public sentiment on this question.

Mr. STRAHAN has lost no time in bringing in his bill for the reduction of the Municipal salary list. It is drawn so as to avoid at once the Governor's objection to signing a general law applicable only to New-York City, and the constitutional prohibition against the passage of a local bill "increasing or decreasing fees, percentage, or allowance of public officers, during the term for which said officers are elected or appointed." It proposes to intrust to the heads of departments the power to fix the salaries of their subordinates, while requiring the Board of Apportionment to appropriate for salaries a sum 20 per cent. less than that appropriated in 1877. Its most obvious defects are, the failure to provide for an immediate revision of the estimates of this year, its concession to the heads of departments of the power to fix their own salaries, and the exceedingly cumbrous phraseology in which its provisions are expressed. Mr. LANGBEIN has introduced a bill which deals with little more than one-fourth of the City salary-list, exempting the remaining three-fourths from all interference. Now that the subject is fairly before the Committee on Cities, it is to be hoped that a simple, comprehensive, and practical bill, on the basis of the reduction proposed by Mr. STRAHAN, will be reported without unnecessary delay.

A VITAL QUESTION IN CITY GOVERNMENT.

With a sagacity and promptitude which are full of promise for his future usefulness, Mayor COOPER has assailed the most insidious and dangerous of the many abuses of our local Government. The question at issue between the Mayor and Controller is the fundamental one of who shall hold the purse-strings of the Treasury. In delegating to the Board of Apportionment the power to fix the annual amount of the tax levy, the Legislature conferred on the local authorities of New-York the most essential function of self-government. Inasmuch as that power is hampered by the legislative prohibition to interfere with at least three-fourths of the salaries paid to City employes, the delegation of self-governing powers was decidedly partial. The chief question affecting the City with which the present Legislature has to deal is how to make the power of the local authorities over the disbursement of public money more complete.

It was clearly not the intention of the Legislature that heads of departments who have the supervision of the work for which public money is appropriated should have the power to exceed, at their pleasure, the sums annually set apart for their use. In fact, the Charter of 1873 contains very distinct prohibitions against any such abuse of authority. Nevertheless, such a practice has been winked at ever since the law was passed. Controller GREEN strenuously resisted the practice during his term of office, but, after the election of Mayor WICKHAM at least, he usually found himself on the Board of Apportionment, in a minority of one. During Controller KELLY'S administration, the evil has been steadily growing. His very lame attempts to justify the practice of covering up illegal expenditures by the transfer of "balances" and the allowance of appropriations to satisfy judgments show how thoroughly incapable is Mr. KELLY of understanding the first principles of responsible and faithful administration. He instanced, yesterday, the case of the Sheriff, who asked an appropriation of $40,000 for his annual allowance from the City, but to whom, "from motives of economy," only $30,000 was granted. The Sheriff goes on, nevertheless, spending at the rate of $40,000 a year, exhausts his legal appropriation in nine months, and brings suit against the City for the alleged $10,000 of liabilities incurred during the remaining three months. According to Mr. KELLY and the Corporation Counsel, the City has no defense against such an action, and the $10,000 nominally saved at the beginning of one year reappears as an addition to the item for judgments in the tax levy of the next.

The batch of judgments of which we print the details to-day is largely made up of claims incurred by a disregard of the law prohibiting departments from exceeding their appropriations. The list has another peculiarity which is equally suggestive of loose methods of administration. In November last attention was called, in these columns, to the allegation that it was the practice of the Corporation Counsel to accommodate Mr. KELLY by compelling successful suitors against the City to defer pressing their unsatisfied judgments, under the threat of making an appeal if they did so. Inspection of the list in question reveals the fact that judgments filed as long ago as last February are now, for the first time, presented for payment. The allowance for judgments made in the tax levy of 1878 was $300,000. It would appear, on the theory that there was no personal or political favoritism in satisfying claimants, to have been exhausted during the first eight weeks of the year. The appropriation for judgments and for "payment of claims adjusted pursuant to law" in the tax levy of 1879 is $450,000, and one of the first demands on Mayor COOPER is a requisition to sign warrants covering $250,000 of that amount. Were Mr. KELLY the treasurer of a financial corporation, this kind of management would be called dishonest. It was by the manipulation of "adjusted claims" that his predecessor, CONNOLLY, facilitated the first important operations of the Ring thieves. Mayor COOPER is justly suspicious of a mass of claims which come to him with a double stamp of illegality, as belonging in the first place to the financial year which has closed, and in the next, as originating, to a great extent, from the practice of departments incurring liabilities in excess of their appropriations.

Alderman MOTT'S concern for "innocent creditors" is, in this connection, somewhat misplaced. No contractor or merchant who has dealings with the City need have any difficulty in ascertaining whether the appropriation out of which he ought to be paid has been exhausted or not. If he takes the risk without inquiry, it is certainly not the business of those who are intrusted with the guardianship of the Treasury to help him to recover his money. Examination of the names of the persons to whom these judgment claims have, in many cases, been assigned would reveal the existence of a traffic in the deferred obligations of the City from which certain persons must derive quite a considerable revenue. City judgments have been cashed at a liberal "shave," like the notes of over-speculative traders, and the creditor, "innocent" or not, is likely, when he can, to leave a margin over and above his usual profits for such a contingency. The entire system is a standing encouragement to extravagance and jobbery, and is the entering wedge for a renewal of unchecked corruption. To have exceeded the legal appropriations for his department ought to subject an executive officer to removal; the power to sanction such an abuse of authority ought to be taken away from the Board of Apportionment. Were public opinion sufficiently exacting and well-informed to hold public officers to a strict account, Controller KELLY'S attempt to justify so obvious a swindle on the public would subject him to lasting disgrace. There will be neither honesty nor economy in Municipal administration while there is nowhere any direct responsibility for making the appropriations of a given year the measure of its expenditures. Mayor COOPER can do the tax-payers no better service than by resolutely upholding such a rule. The Legislature can make no more needed contribution to Municipal reform than by affixing some well-defended penalties to any breach of the existing law on that subject, and by making that law sufficiently comprehensive to stop the practice of transferring "balances" from one appropriation to conceal the deficiency created in another.

THE PACIFIC RAILROADS.

Yesterday's decision of the United States Supreme Court substantially harmonizes law with common sense in the construction put upon the term "net earnings" as applied to the Pacific Railroads. The case decided was an appeal of the Union Pacific from the Court of Claims, but the points involved pertain equally to the Central Pacific. One related to the date at which the road should be held to be completed,—that being the date at which certain specified obligations to the Government came into operation. On this point the judgment is in favor of the Government. The other related to the amount available as net earnings, on which, under a provision of the original acts, five per cent. is payable to the Treasury from the period of completion,—now declared to be November, 1869.

On the part of the Government, it has been contended that net receipts are so much of the gross receipts as remain after defraying the running expenses of the road and its maintenance in proper condition. The companies have insisted that to those disbursements on account of current management should be added the total amount of interest payable on the various forms of bonded and floating indebtedness. The position assumed by the Government is sustained by the general practice of railroad companies, and—as we recently showed—by the Union Pacific itself in statements prepared for circulation among its shareholders. The position of the companies, on the other hand, is simply one feature of their plan for enhancing the speculative value of their properties at the expense of the American people. "Squeeze all that can be squeezed out of the roads for the benefit of the stock and leave the Treasury to whistle for its money,"—has been the maxim of the companies from the beginning; and this struggle respecting the percentage has been one of the illustrations. It is now ended. The Supreme Court decides adversely to the companies, subject to one qualification growing out of the preference generously accorded by the Government to the holders of the first mortgage bond. Having yielded priority to this security, the Government, according to the present decision, must allow the sum payable as interest on it to be deducted from the earnings as part of the expenditure preceding the net result. The reason for the exception thus made may be found in the equities of the case, rather than among its more obvious considerations.

Aside from the point thus finally settled against the companies, the decision has an important bearing on the controversy connected with the working of the Thurman bill, enacted last session. Indeed, it affirms in advance the tenableness of the construction put by that measure upon the phrase "net earnings," as the basis of the 25 per cent. contribution to the sinking fund. Of course, the companies, in pursuance of the policy which leads them always to prefer litigation to the recognition of just claims, will impugn the constitutionality of the law. They have little faith in the result of their appeal, as may be inferred from the attempt to smuggle through Congress a bill reopening the question at issue, but while a chance of escape remains, they will resist the demand of the fund on which alone the Government can rely for the repayment of its advances. The contest will be all the fiercer because of the ground covered by yesterday's decision. As long as the companies were enabled to manipulate their accounts to suit their own convenience, net earnings were an equivocal security. The court, sustaining the principle laid down in the Thurman act, brings the matter within well-defined boundaries.

Practically, however, the efficacy of the judgment will be partial or complete, as the recently-organized Bureau of Railroad Accounts may be enabled to discharge its duties. The reluctant submission of the Union Pacific to the authority of the bureau, and the insolent disregard of its requirements by the Central Pacific, are indicative of the dread inspired by the prospect of an investigation. But, desirable before, it is now essential. Enough is known with regard to both companies to render intelligible their aversion to scrutiny. The Union Pacific has, for stock-jobbing purposes, devoted to dividends money that should have been applied to the improvement of the road. It has expended on outside operations sums that should have been paid to the Government. The Central Pacific has pursued the same course more recklessly; and a thorough overhauling of its accounts will doubtless bring to light the agencies and objects which have made it odious wherever its influence is felt. We repose little confidence in Pacific Railroad Commissioners: they become the creatures of the companies they should hold in check. But an independent audit, if accompanied with a publication in detail of the accounts audited, would show how little forbearance the management of the two companies is entitled to, and how necessary is the enforcement of the laws enacted for the protection of the Treasury and the public.

It is useless to disguise the fact that the stubborn wrong-doing of the companies, their resistance to just demands, and their corrupt attempts to control legislation, all tend to justify more extreme measures than would otherwise be approved. The forfeiture of a franchise is a proceeding not to be hastily advised; however carefully carried out, it must entail hardship upon parties unconnected with the acts that form its justification. Messrs. GOULD and HUNTINGTON, however, mistake the public temper if they imagine that they can go on indefinitely defying the Government, depriving it of its lawful dues, violating the law in the matter of discrimination as to rates and traffic, and sacrificing general interests to personal ends. The stern reckoning they put off will come at last.

THE PROPOSED SWEDISH EXCISE LAW.

Mr. OGDEN, member from Brooklyn, has laid before the committees of both houses of the Legislature an amendment to the Excise law which attracts much attention from all parties. It is what is called the "Swedish Excise law." Sweden, as is well known, was for a number of years terribly afflicted with intemperance. The evil reached so great an extreme that a strong religious and abstinence "revival" arose, and the population were at length raised up from their low condition into temperate habits. The question then came up as to the best Excise law, and the plan was finally adopted, which has worked admirably in that country, of selling licenses at public auction, the licenses themselves being limited in number for each locality. The theory on which this rests is, that the legislators cannot, with a due regard to the rights of all, entirely forbid the sale of alcoholic stimulants; but they may reasonably check and limit it, and it is certainly one of the most legitimate objects of taxation. By a sale, the licenses under competition are brought up near their market value, the State receives a larger income, and each dealer is interested in exposing any dealer who has not paid his license fee. The business is limited; it falls into fewer hands, and becomes more respectable, and temptation is diminished. The money received under this system has been so considerable in Sweden that two parks are said to have been constructed in different localities from license fees, and intemperance has been much diminished.

The bill before the New-York Legislature amending our Excise law permits the Boards of Excise to limit the number of licenses in any given locality, but does not allow the proportion to exceed one to every 500 of the population, the present proportion, in many villages, being one to every 100. The sales of the licenses are to be at public auction, after due notice, to the highest bidder, provided he be a proper person in other respects. The time of the sale is to be between the 10th and 31st March, and one-fourth of the amount bid is to be paid in cash before the last day of April. Nothing in this law, however, shall prevent the majority of voters in a given locality from establishing "local prohibition." A new and, it seems to us, excellent provision of this law is, that after a man has purchased a license he must record, in a public manner, the place where he proposes to sell liquors, and then if at any time before the 15th April the owners of at least half of the property situated within two hundred feet of the place remonstrate against granting the license, no license shall be issued. The advantages of such a law to the public are very obvious. Each city or village receives a portion of the profit which has hitherto accrued to the liquor-dealer, and enjoys the benefits of a heavy tax on the best possible object for it—a deleterious luxury. We can easily imagine how large an income would come to this city from such a sale, and what a relief it would bring to our overburdened tax-payers.

It becomes also the interest of the liquor-dealers to observe the law, and to report any who violate it. The drinking-places being limited, can be more easily watched and controlled by the Police, and, as all licenses are sold at one time, and expire at the same time, the public can know precisely what is being done, and guard their own interests. A liquor-seller does not then become necessarily a tool of the politicians; he is not favored with a license for political reasons, but buys it in the open market, and, as he must have some means, the probability is that he will be, other things being equal, a more decent person, and keep a more orderly establishment, than one appointed for political and personal reasons.

This amendment, too, gives "local option" in its best shape; every city or village can authorize few licenses, or many, or none at all; at the same time, they cannot go beyond the proportion fixed. Moreover, the residents of a given locality, who may dread the nuisance of a rum-shop near them, can easily prevent its establishment. The plan relieves the public Treasury in these hard times; it may make the business of liquor-selling more decent; it puts it under proper control; it is fair to the liquor interest and fair to the public; it provides the best form of "local option." We trust that Mr. OGDEN'S bill will have thorough consideration by the committees of both houses, and that the existing complicated and conflicting laws may be amended by some such simple and practical measure.

BUTLER'S NEW CAMPAIGN.

B. F. BUTLER, if he runs again as candidate for Governor of Massachusetts, must overcome a plurality of 30,000 votes cast against him at the late election. Therefore he is taking time by the forelock. The returns of the election are scarcely canvassed, and his successful competitor inaugurated, before BUTLER opens his new campaign. Like Gen. POPE, in a certain memorable military movement, his headquarters are in the saddle. There is a certain audacity about the recent action of the Butler State Committee which must rouse the admiration of all impartial observers. But we regret to perceive in the words of many anti-Butler newspapers in Massachusetts a certain disgust and impatience which remind us of the querulousness of a man who has been frequently called up during the night to drive a bull out of the front yard. Our Massachusetts friends do not seem to have that fine sense of the ludicrous which we should expect to find in a highly-cultured community. There is a suggestion of sardonic rage which almost borders on profanity in the remark of some of the anti-Butler papers that they are glad to know thus early where to find BUTLER. But nobody believes that these newspapers are amused to learn that Mr. BUTLER is formally in the field as candidate for Governor in 1879.

It is wearisome business. But it must all be gone over again. To us who stand outside and view Massachusetts with a certain degree of perspective, the ill-concealed annoyance of the highly respectable citizens of that State appears unreasonable. There is a romantic unexpectedness about BUTLER'S campaigns which amuses dispassionate observers, although the purest and best of the old Bay State angrily exclaim, "It may be fun to you, but it is death to us." This year, the campaign opens with a split in the Democratic Party. As the attentive reader is aware, when BUTLER captured the Democratic Convention at Worcester, he claimed to have captured with it the Democratic machine. The State Central Committee then appointed represents itself to be the Democratic State Central Committee, and although it is locally known as BUTLER'S Committee, its acts and utterances have been carefully invested with everything that could stamp them with Democratic regularity. Mr. AVERY and his colleagues left Worcester in great dudgeon and held in Faneuil Hall, Boston, the regular Democratic convention at which Mr. ABBOTT was nominated. It must be admitted that the Abbott Democratic Party have the prestige of regularity. But the Butlerites have the advantage of superior numbers.

The Butler address, just issued from the "Head-quarters Democratic State Central Committee, Boston," invites the co-operation of all voters of the Commonwealth, "irrespective of previous party affiliation," for the purpose of effecting "retrenchment and reform." It is particularly desired that in all those towns and cities in which two or more Democratic local committees exist, the committees shall be united, and "the differences of opinion which created them should be harmonized." To this end, caucuses are to be held, and "the regular" local Democratic committees should be chosen. It should be borne in mind that the Massachusetts town elections occur in the Spring, and that the astute statesman of Essex proposes to enter the field then. If Butler men are chosen on town committees and Boards of Selectmen, a great gain will be made. Relying on the numerical strength of his party, BUTLER is said to be willing to leave to the Democratic voters of Massachusetts the duty of choosing a new State Central Committee. It is not likely that the Abbott, or "regular" wing would consent to any such arrangement.

BUTLER'S managers know very well that the Greenback craze which gave his raid so much animation last year will not be the same element of strength next Fall. It will be a purely personal contest in which Mr. BUTLER will then find himself engaged. The substantial old Democrats who control the Faneuil Hall organization are not the men to surrender everything to a man whom they loathe and deride as an unprincipled adventurer. Nevertheless, the Butler men carry themselves very loftily. At their convocation in Boston, last Saturday it was agreed that if the Abbott men should refuse to accept the platform to be prepared by the Butler Democrats, they should be "fired out of the party." This is high language for a party which possesses the semblance of a political machine by virtue of a political burglary. But, if bombast and great swelling words will accomplish anything, the Butlerites will overmatch their adversaries in the long run. BUTLER has already made his opening moves. He is as original and audacious as ever, and his unexpectedly early appearance in the field indicates the fertility of his resources. The unfolding of the plans of the anti-Butler wing of the Democracy will be awaited with curiosity by those who find entertainment in the game of politics.

The historic old frigate *Constitution* has become involved in a legal complication which may revive in some patriotic breast the memories of a certain sea-fight in which the original frigate figured. The owner of the steam-tug which pulled the ship off the shoal on which she had grounded has undertaken legal proceedings to recover the sum of $7,500 salvage. The man was offered $1,000 by Capt. RADFORD, of the *Constitution*, but he has gone to law about the case, and, disregarding the advice of the Admiralty Court, has served notice on the Captain. The Admiralty Judge is said to have advised that the United States Minister and the British Secretary for Foreign Affairs be notified of the proceedings. It has been held in British courts that a claim for salvage of a foreign ship-of-war cannot be entertained. Says the decision: "This is not because compensation ought not to be made, but on account of the immunity of the foreign war-ship from attachment in the waters of a nation which has permitted her to enter." It is assumed that the Government to which the vessel belongs will, on proper application, bestow a due reward.

THE UNION PACIFIC CASES.

DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The following decisions were rendered by the United States Supreme Court to-day:

No. 736—*The Union Pacific Railroad Company, appellant, vs. The United States.*—This was a suit brought by the Union Pacific Railroad Company in the Court of Claims to recover from the United States, under the acts of Congress of July 2, 1864, and March 3, 1871, one-half of the compensation due it for the transportation of mails, troops, supplies, and munitions of war, amounting in the aggregate to $900,000. As a defense to this suit, the Government set up a counterclaim, under the sixth section of the act of July 1, 1862, to 5 per cent. of the net earnings of said road from the date of its completion, Nov. 6, 1869, to Nov. 6, 1874, amounting to $1,400,000. This claim the Union Pacific Company resisted, on the ground that the road was not completed in 1869, as alleged by the Government, but in 1874, and that the interest on its indebtedness, as well as its running expenses, should be deducted from its gross receipts in computing the net earnings upon which the United States was entitled to receive a per centage. A trial in the Court of Claims resulted in a victory for the Government, that court holding the road was completed in 1869, and that the Government was entitled to receive the difference between half compensation, which it admitted was due to the railroad company, and the full amount of its counterclaim. From that decree the Union Pacific Company appealed. The questions presented to this court for decision are: First, when was the Union Pacific Railroad completed? Second, what should be included in the words "net earnings?" And, third, how and under what conditions are payments to be made? This court, in a long and carefully-prepared opinion, delivered by Justice Bradley, holds as follows:

First—That, although in one sense of the word a railroad is never completed, or never in such a way as to make further improvement or greater perfection impossible, there is no reason why the word "completed" should be construed to mean one thing in the fourth and fifth sections of the act of 1862 and another thing in the sixth section. If the road was completed in such a sense as to entitle the company to receive land grants and subsidy bonds from the Government, it was also completed in such a sense as to entitle the Government to demand and receive the payment of its net earnings. This construction is, in the opinion of the court, so obvious that it needs no argument. The findings of fact in the court below show that the company, through its President, made affidavit to the completion of both of the several sections of its road and its whole line prior to Nov. 1869, and that upon the strength of these representations, and of reports made by Commissioners appointed to examine the road, it was accepted by the President, and subsidy bonds and patents for land grants upon the whole were duly issued to the company. The latter is thus estopped by its own action from pleading in excuse. A stronger case of estoppel could hardly be presented.

Second—What should be included in the net earnings? The court holds, in reply to this question, that the earnings of the road should include all sums receivable by the company from the Government for services rendered, but not the income or profit derived from its lands; that in computing the net earnings there should be deducted from this gross sum the necessary expenses of operation and all expenditures for ordinary improvement and repairs, but not expenditures arising out of the company's land department, nor interest upon the bonded indebtedness. The latter, the court holds, is not properly chargeable against receipts in computing net earnings. While thus deciding against the company on this point the court is clearly of opinion:

Third—That the net earnings thus computed are to be applied first to payment of the annual interest upon its first mortgage bonds, and not to the payment of the 5 per cent. claimed by the Government. The court holds that to allow the claimants or officers of the Government to alter its lien priority. Interest accruing on the first mortgage bonds is as rightly payable out of the net earnings as is the 5 per cent. due the Government. The net earnings are the fund out of which both are to be paid; but if the fund is adequate only to the payment of one, the Government is the last mortgagee bondholder preferred; otherwise, the whole Government debt might be paid, to the exclusion of the first mortgage, which is admitted to have priority. Such a result would be manifestly absurd. The Government, however, may claim that if there is not a sufficient surplus of net earnings in one year to pay 5 per cent. due for that year, it may be carried over to a succeeding year and taken out of the surplus thereof. This position the court holds to be untenable. The statute makes the application an annual one. If the year produces net earnings sufficient for the purpose, the Government can claim 5 per cent.; otherwise it does not, and there the account ends. It was never intended that it should be carried over from one year to another.

In conclusion, the court, after directing some modifications in the decree in the Court of Claims, sums up its decision of the principal question in controversy as follows: "If, with these modifications, it should be found that the net earnings in any one year were not more than sufficient to pay interest on the first mortgage bonds accruing in said year, then the company will not be decreed to pay any portion of said 5 per cent. of net earnings for that year; but if the net earnings were more than sufficient to pay such interest, the excess only will be subject, as far as it will go, to the payment of said 5 per cent.; but the company will not be decreed to pay any more than said excess. The decree of the Court of Claims is reversed, with instructions to enter a decree conforming thereto."

Justice Strong read a dissenting opinion for himself and Justice Harlan.

No. 703—*United States, plaintiff in error, against Central Pacific Railroad Company.*—In error to the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of California.—Inasmuch as this case involves the same questions as the case of the Union Pacific, already decided, the court does not consider it necessary to repeat its opinion. It reverses the judgment of the Circuit Court, with directions to grant a new trial and to be governed by the opinion in the case above referred to. Opinion by Justice Bradley; Justice Strong and Harlan dissenting.

No. 416—*United States, plaintiff in error, vs. Kansas Pacific Railroad Company.*—In error to the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Kansas. Judgment reversed for reasons given in decision of Union Pacific case, and cause remanded for new trial. Opinion by Justice Bradley.

COURT OF APPEALS.

ALBANY, Jan. 27.—In the Court of Appeals to-day the following business was transacted: No. 38—Francis O. Hagan, respondent, vs. Sidney Dillon and others, appellants; argued by Alexander Thain for appellants and submitted for respondent. No. 23—William S. Verplanck, Receiver, &c., appellant, vs. Lorenzo Van Buren and another, respondents; argued by William W. Badger for appellant and R. H. Hustis for respondents. No. 30—The People ex rel. James S. Kehan, appellant, vs. the Board of Police Commissioners of New-York City; submitted. No. 18—Catharine Aikin, appellant, vs. Silas Saxton, Sheriff, &c., respondent; argued by D. M. Dewitt for appellant and A. Schoonmaker, Jr., for respondent. No. 45—The town of Willsborough, respondent, vs. The New-York and Canada Railroad Company et al., appellants; argued by D. M. Grover for appellants, and Samuel Hand for respondents. No. 44—The town of Essex, respondent, vs. the New-York and Canada Railroad Company; argued by D. M. Grover for appellant, and Samuel Hand for respondent.

The following are the calendars for to-morrow: Motion Calendar—Nos. 354, 358, 340, 341, 349, 350, 352, 353, 359, and 360. Day Calendar—Nos. 34, 7, 10, 28, 30, 12, 11, and 72.

ATTACKING A DEAD CLERGYMAN.

ELMIRA, N. Y., Jan. 27.—To-day, in the Supreme Court, before Judge Martin, a case of unusual interest was disposed of. Bridget Gibson sued the Administrators of the estate of the Rev. Thomas Keating for $10,000, for the care and support of a child of which, she claimed, Keating, who was a Catholic clergyman at Hudson, N. Y., was the father. The court dismissed the case on the ground that she was not a competent witness. Hon. J. Thomas Shriggs, of Utica, conducted the case for the defendant, ex-Congressman Smith for the plaintiff.

ELECTION JUDGES CONVICTED.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 27.—In the United States Circuit Court, Judge Bond presiding, the jury this morning rendered a verdict of guilty against Justice J. Onder and Walter Tucker, Judges of Election at the late Congressional election in the Fourteenth Ward. They were found guilty of hindering the United States Supervisor in the discharge of his duties by refusing to admit a special Deputy United States Marshal to the polling-room, and with stuffing the ballot-box. They were remanded for sentence.

MINERS DEMANDING THEIR WAGES.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 27.—The miners in the employ of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company have sent to President Gowen an address, adopted at a meeting of the delegates representing the colliery employes, miners, and laborers of Schuylkill County, held at Pottsville on Jan. 14. They demand the payment of their wages in lawful money of the United States, and threaten that if such payment is not made on or before Feb. 14 they will refuse to work thereafter.

THE POLITICAL TELEGRAMS.

MR. POTTER'S NEW INVESTIGATION BEGUN.

SEVERAL OFFICERS OF THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY EXAMINED — A TRUNKFUL OF DISPATCHES BURNED BY ORDER OF PRESIDENT GREEN—AN UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO PREVENT THE MEANING OF REPUBLICAN DISPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The Potter Committee to-day began the investigation of the cipher dispatches. The first witness called was Mr. Clarence Cuney, attorney of the Western Union Telegraph Company, New-York City. He testified that certain dispatches were placed in his charge when it was proposed to issue subpœnas for their production before an investigating committee in Washington, the purpose of placing the dispatches in his possession being to avoid, if possible, their delivery for public inspection. It was thought that a subpœna would not be issued to him owing to his position; he was finally, however, directed by the Executive Committee to deliver the messages to Capt. Whitney, the Washington manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, after doing this his custody of the dispatches ended; the instructions with regard to picking out the dispatches were to take all that were of a political character; the collection, when first made, being for the sole purpose of getting them out of the way of a subpœna.

Mr. Floyd Grant, who supervised the selection of the dispatches, was the next witness. He explained how he proceeded in the selection; he came to Washington, and in order to comply with certain subpœnas issued upon Capt. Whitney he opened the trunk which contained the dispatches collected by him in New-York, and selected those called for by the subpœnas of the Morrison committee; the rest were replaced in the trunk.

By the Chairman—What was the number remaining? Did you keep any schedule of them? A.—The number, exclusive of those required by the Morrison committee, was 29,275.

By Mr. McMahon—Mr. Floyd testified that the telegrams were about evenly divided as regards party; a number were sent by E. Chandler from the Fifth-Avenue Hotel; these were some signed "Havemeyer," some "Hooper," and others "Noyes;" he thought Mr. Chandler's message went to Florida; others went to New-Orleans and Oregon; he thought that of the 29,000 dispatches 300 were in cipher.

Capt. Leonard Whitney, manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company in Washington, in compliance with a request by Mr. McMahon, produced a schedule showing more than 300 dispatches delivered to the Morrison committee. He thought Mr. Morrison returned the dispatches, but did not recollect the time. Other schedules were produced, showing that various dispatches which he was called upon to publish were delivered to the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections. The dispatches were delivered in two different packages. The dispatches when returned to Capt. Whitney were in the trunk mentioned.

By Mr. Hunton—Witness said when the trunk was returned to him the schedules previously prepared were not verified by the contents of the trunk, and it was immediately shipped to New-York by order of the President, Mr. Orton; he had never heard that any of the dispatches were missing from the trunk.

By Mr. McMahon—Mr. Whitney said that Mr. Van Horne gave a verbal order in his (Whitney's) office to collect all political dispatches from the files of the Western Union, to New-York; the conversation as to the cause of this unusual procedure occurred between witness and Mr. Van Horne, however.

Prof. Edward S. Holden, of the Naval Observatory, was then sworn to translate without divulging in any way the "cipher dispatches," which were handed to the committee by Gen. Butler.

TESTIMONY OF JAMES O. GREEN.

Mr. James O. Green said he was chief clerk of the Western Union Telegraph Company on railway relations and free service; also acted as a sort of confidential clerk to his father, the present President; he lately had received his father's letter, referred to the fact of having handed over the key of a trunk containing dispatches to him, directing that the contents should be destroyed; this was in May of last year; he took the dispatches into the basement of the Western Union building and cast them into the furnace in boxes.

By the Chairman—Was there a strong fire? A.—Yes, and I took a poker and saw that they were properly consumed.

Q.—There was no chance of any of them escaping by the chimney? A.—No, Sir; every one was burned; I could not say whether all the telegrams were returned in the trunk; 25 per cent. might have been taken out without his knowing; he could tell well whether the packages had been opened;

of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, and asked by the Chairman if he ever received a package of money from Senator Bulock; he replied he came to William E. Chandler. Witness admitted having received a bundle of papers (he could not say what the contents were) from Bulock and having handed it intact to Gen. Brady, of the Post Office Department.

The Chairman handed Mr. Evans a letter purporting to be a copy of a letter received by him from Mr. Bulock, which mentioned the package at the one Evans had given William E. Chandler at the request of Mr. Bulock. Witness denied giving Chandler the package, and said he did not know William E. Chandler personally. The letter, in conclusion, stated that Senator Wadleigh would inform him (Evans) where Mr. Chandler could be found. [Laughter.]

After some further interrogatories, in which it was developed that Mr. Evans had not spoken to Gen. Brady on the subject since delivering the package, and had heard no more about it, a recess was taken until 8 P. M.

GOVERNOR GRANT.

On the resumption of the committee Mr. Grant was recalled and testified that on the order of Mr. Cary, he made another search for the dispatches between Tyner and Chandler, and found some of them; there were seven or eight altogether; one was a telegram from Tyner about making two appointments in the Interior Department at salaries of $2,500 each, and asking Mr. Chandler to do this and have the money placed in a Indianapolis bank so that it might be drawn in Indianapolis by the Republican Committee; the telegrams also contained the names of the persons to be appointed; he could not remember what those names were, but he believed one was Martin.

Mr. Reed—It was not St. Martin was it?

The Chairman—No. He has not received his appointment yet, as far as I know.

Mr. Reed—He had one from the sub-committee.

Mr. McMahon—Yes. They discharged him for promotion.

Gen. Butler—Oh, he does not pay money; he receives.

TWELVE PACKAGES OF MOLASSES CANDY.

At this point the clerk of the committee brought in a specially wrapped newspaper package, and handed it to the Chairman, who at first eyes seemed immediately turned. Blushingly, he rose to explain. "Gentlemen," he said, "I ordered from Mrs. Whitney-name in the lobby, 12 copies of the *Tribune* special about the cipher dispatches, but it seems there has been some mistake, and she has sent 12 packages of molasses candy." [Laughter.]

Mr. Reed—Either is sweet enough for this committee.

Mr. Hiscock—It is very evident she appreciated what you wanted or needed. [Laughter.]

THE PROCEEDINGS RESUMED.

The examination of Grant was then resumed, and further details were given by him of telegrams which passed between Messrs. Chandler and Tyner. He also testified with regard to a telegram from Porter relating to the same matter.

Q.—Do you recollect on this point, explained that he had forwarded some dispatches in connection with these telegrams. The number was incomplete, and at the suggestion of Grant, the manager at Indianapolis was notified to send on the rest.

By the Chairman.—You stated that you had forgotten names until you heard the last witness mention them. Do you now recollect conferring with Chandler with William E. Chandler do you? [Laughter.] A.—No, Sir.

Gen. Butler (to Grant)—I want to understand something more about this. Tyner telegraphed to Chandler, Secretary of the Interior, to appoint somebody in his Department? A.—Yes, Sir; two appointments of $2,500 each.

Q.—For these appointments a certain sum of money would be paid, and Tyner wished to have such sum deposited in the bank so it could be drawn in Indiana? A.—I said that exactly.

By Mr. Reed.—Deposited by whom in the bank? A.—Chandler. He was to furnish the money, and make the appointments, not probably the same day, or the day after, Chandler telegraphed that he had deposited money as requested.

Mr. Cary being recalled, said he would like to make a statement that he knew nothing of any consequence with regard to these telegrams, and to the question that was objected to, he had some private knowledge that came to him as attorney for the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Mr. Butler—Answer the question and then make an objection. It has been testified by Mr. Grant that he received a schedule from you. From whom did you receive that schedule? A.—I plead my privilege on that question.

Mr. Butler—I regard that as he did not desire to ask the contents of this paper, but simply put the question for the purpose of tracing it, witness was bound to answer.

The Chairman ruled; witness persisting, and witnesses then recited that he had put the schedule in collection from whom he got the schedule, or that he ever had it.

Mr. Butler—Then why did you object? A.—Because I knew something further about it—behind that.

Mr. Butler—Tell us what it is.

Witness claimed his privilege, and a discussion followed on the point between him and Mr. Butler; and the latter said the law out that point.

Mr. Hiscock—It seems to me that Cary's objection is entirely proper in declining to answer this question, as it is not within the scope of our investigation.

Mr. Butler—Oh, you have no there. I do not hold that.

A long discussion took place on the question at issue, as the signs of which it was determined to take a vote; the question was, witness should be called upon to answer or not, when all the members present voted in the affirmative, with the exception of the Chairman.

Mr. Hiscock—Now, I wish you had put the other question as to whether the question which is asked the witness is pertinent to the inquiry.

A vote was taken, and it was decided that the question was pertinent.

Witness then replied—I am unable to recollect what he told me; it is my impression and belief that he brought these telegrams; or copies of them, and read them out to me, remarking that it was an extraordinary case; I am unable to separate in my mind the statement of what I saw in them from what I have heard other witnesses have stated. I never saw the telegrams; to the best of my belief they related to some dirty piece of work in regard to the sale of offices for some political ends.

Mr. Butler—Stocking you as a board to-day has refreshed your memory so that you can say on your truthful oath that it did not refresh the subpoenaed given by other witnesses?

Mr. Hiscock—I object to this question, and ask that it be ruled out. It is like putting six witnesses on the stand to testify that they did not see the man steal the pork.

A vote was taken, and Messrs. Hiscock, Reed, and the Chairman voted against the question.

Witness answered that the testimony he had heard was supplementary to his recollection, and went he good; he did not think the dispatches were signed Stephen W. Dorsey, or entirely defaced.

The Chairman stated that he had received a letter from Mr. Brady to the effect that he would appear before the committee to-morrow morning.

Mr. Butler—Suppose Chandler testified that he got these dispatches from Mr. Brady in a newspaper bundle. You would not want Brady.

The Chairman—He might testify entirely different, and then I shall want him.

The committee then adjourned until 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

A STATEMENT BY MR. TYNER.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The following is given by Mr. Tyner as an authentic statement of the facts from which the witnesses before the Potter committee to-day got their impressions as to sales of offices for political contributions: "Notwithstanding the defeat of the Republican State ticket in Indiana in October, 1878, it was thought that with an active canvass and a full Republican vote, the State might be carried for Hayes in November. The State Committee requested financial aid from the National Committee in New-York, and Mr. E. Chandler, Chairman, agreed to furnish from $50 to $100 for each county in the State, or from $6,000 to $10,000, to aid in getting out a full vote. If Mr. Tyner, then about to visit Indiana, should telegraph that there was a reasonable prospect of success, and that the money was needed, just as the money in New-York it was arranged between him and Mr. Chandler, that money should not be mentioned in the telegrams, but that Mr. Tyner should speak of the appointment of one Indian Agent, instead of saying $6,000. He did telegraph; this two Indian Agents were wanted, and subsequently telegraphed Mr. Chandler to deposit in the Hanover National Bank of New-York subject to draft, the sum representing the appointments of two Indian Agents, or in other words $10,000, which Mr. Chandler so deposited. The telegrams between John W. Foster and Mr. Tyner were prior to the October election, and related to raising money in legitimate methods for the Indiana State campaign. Most of them related to appointments to offices of any kind whatever, as stated by the

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

SALES AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE—JAN. 27.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS—10:15 A. M.

U. S. 5s C. '81	U. S. 4s R., 1907	U. S. 6s C., 1907
$14,000.....104¼	$10,000.....100	$10,000.....106¼
14,000.....104¼	U. S. 6s C. '67	$10,000.....106¼
12,000.....106¼	$500.....101¾	10,000.....106

FIRST BOARD—10:30 A. M.

La. 7s cons.	Erie 2d.	S.L.S.&S.F.2d, c. h.
$10,000.....64¼	4,000.....110¼	3,000.....24¼
10,000.....64	Mich. Cent.	Pacific Mail.
5,000.....64	25,000.....1c.	10,000.....19
8,000.....64¼	25,000.....102	N.P.W.1st W.D.
20,000.....64¼	Ohio & Miss.	1,000.....84
2,000.....64¼	10,000.....89	1,000.....84¼
10,000.....64¼	5,000.....s.o.	4,000.....101¼
Mo. K. & T. 6s.	2,000.....s.o.	Erie.
1,000.....107¼	5,000.....107¼	100.....103
1,000.....111	Pacific of Mo.	Bank of Amer.
N. J. C. 1st con.	1,000.....108	25.....128
10,000.....64	Ill. Central.	Erie Railway.
5,000.....60¼	10,000.....95¼	1000.s.o.....94¼
N. J. C. cons.	K. P. 1st W. R. R.	1100.....94¼
1,000.....75¼	with cons.	Chic. & N.W.
1,000.....75¼	2,000.....102	100.....s.o. 73¾
1,000.....s.o.	2,000.....s.o. 99½	100.....73¾
1,000.....s.o.	2,000.....s.o. 99½	Chi. & N.W.
1,000.....s.o.	2,000.....s.o. 99½	2500.....s.o. 68
M. S. C. Income.	C. C. & I. C. 1st.	C. C. C. & I.
4,000.....s.o.	1,000.....80	5000.....68¼
L. S. & M. S. con. s.o.	L. L. C. & N. R. R.	Capital of N. Y.
1,000.....40½	74.25	100.....s.o. 43¼
L. S. & M. S.	1,000.....99¾	Chic. & N.W.
2,000.....s.o. 128	L. L. & So. Pa. 1st.	100.....43¼
M. L. S. & W.	5,000.....103	Chi. & R. I.
1,000.....103	10,000.....1c.	100.....s.o. 197
10,000.....107¼	10,000.....99	C. R. & Pt. F.
M. L. S. & W. 1st.	10,000.....99	100.....s.o. 49
1,000.....84	2,000.....s.o. 99	100.....s.o. 49
1,000.....105¼	10,000.....s.o. 99	Chicago & Alton.
M. L. S. & W.	10,000.....s.o. 99	100.....s.o. 84
1,000.....s.o.	10,000.....s.o. 99	Chicago & Alton.
1,000.....s.o.	10,000.....s.o. 99	10.....s.o. 84
1,000.....s.o.	10,000.....s.o. 99	Ill. Cent. & C.
1,000.....s.o.	10,000.....s.o. 99	100.....s.o. 18
1,000.....s.o.	10,000.....s.o. 99	Wabash.
1,000.....107¼	10,000.....111¼	100.....s.o. 18
2,000.....107¼		

GOVERNMENT STOCKS—2:30 P. M.

U. S. 10-40 R.	U. S. 5-20 R., '67.
$15,000.....104¼	$50,000.s.o.101¼

SECOND BOARD—1 P. M.

La. 7s, cons.	K.P. 6s, 1st D., '96.	L. S. & M. S.
$14,000.....63	with comp. cert.	1000.....s.o. 74
10,000.....64	38,000.....106	700.....74¼
5,000.....1¼	K. P. 1st 7s, D. Div.	1700.....74¼
N. J. C. Adjust.	1,000.....s.o. cons.	1000.....74¼
8,000.....64¼	1,000.....80¾	Illinois Central.
10,000.....64¼	C. R. & P. 1st.	100.....s.o. 97¾
N. J. C. cons.	4,000.....s.o. 71	100.....s.o. 97
1,000.....75¼	4,000.....s.o. 71	L. S. & M. S.
N. J. C. & P. R.	A. & P. R. R. 2d.	100.....s.o. 74
1,000.....s.o.	1,000.....s.o.	Central of N. J.
1,000.....s.o.	1,000.....s.o.	1000.....s.o. 41¾
1,000.....s.o.	1,000.....s.o.	1000.....

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET.

The following business was transacted at the Auctioneers' Exchange, Monday, Jan. 27:

William Kennedy, Receiver sale, William Shelton, 37, Rebecca, and the tenement, brick dwelling, with lot 18 by 100, No. 206 Spring-st, south side, west of Sullivan-st., for $6,000, to Bowery Savings Institution, mortgagee.

Clifford V. Rankin, Referee sale, Alfred Wagstaff, Jun., Rebecca, and two lots, each 25 by 100, on 10th-st., east side, 54.6 feet north of 7th-st., for $5,000, to Charles A. and John A. Wickham, as Receivers and mortgagees.

John T. Bush, Referee sale, Peter L. Kane, Mary, Rebecca, and two lots, each 25 by 100, on Avenue A, west side, 50.10 feet south of 12th-st., for $6,200, to Nicholas Rosenkranz, mortgagee.

Joseph B. Myers, Referee, Michael Ryan, Mary, Rebecca, and a plot of land, 275 by 215 by 125, irregular, on the east side of Third-st., adjoining lot by same, to John Collins, and running through to lands of St. John's College, and running along the Harlem River; also, all the land south 20 by 25 feet in Union-place, for $1,800, to William F. Woodward, mortgagee.

Richard Field, Referee sale, Valentine Cook, Jr., Rebecca, and a tenement frame house, with lot 25 by 100, on Christopher-st., east side, 94 feet north of Milton-st., 224 Ward, for $1,625, to Robert Sharpe.

The remaining sales were adjourned as follows: Sale by Richard V. Harnett of a plot of land on 10th-st., between 5th and 6th-avs., with lot, No. 1,617 Broadway, 21x50, to Feb. 10.

Sale by Richard V. Harnett of a plot of land on 10th-st., between 5th and 6th-avs., with lot, No. 1,617 Broadway, 21x50, and the tenement, to Feb. 10.

south of 90th-st., sixty-six.

RECORDED REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Saturday, Jan. 25.

[illegible] $4,000
Edward Dale to [illegible] 10x100.5; Thomas Cash, Jun., 60th and 3d, 25x100.5; 194th-st., n. s., 100 w. 8th-av., 18.9x100.11; 194th-st., n. s., 84 w. of Lenox, 18.9x100.11; Rosina Schmidt, Hubbertown to James Cunningham, 100 w. 10th-av., 25x100.11; 110th-st., n. s., 100 w. of Lenox, 18.9x100.11; Cornelius Cole, Hubbertown, 100 w. 10th-av., 25x100.11; Cornelius Cole and wife to Thomas Cash, Jun., 100 w. 10th-av., 25x100.11; 110th-st., n. s., 125 w. of 11th-av., 18.9x100.11; Walter C. Gilsey and wife to Rosina Schmidt, Hubbertown, 100 w. 10th-av., 25x100.11; Mortgage Bank, Thomas Cochran, O'Gorman to Rosina Schmidt, Hubbertown, 100 w. 10th-av., 25x100.11; John F. Ryan, Jun., and wife to John Ryan, 25 w. of 2d-av., 25x100; 2d-st., n. s., 25 w. of 2d-av., 25x100; John Ryan and wife to John Ryan, Jun., 25 w. of 2d-av., 25x100; 2d-st., n. s., 25 w. of 2d-av., 25x100; John Ryan, Jun., and wife to Charles F. Wilmurdy, 25 w. of 2d-av., 25x100; Charles F. Wilmurdy and wife to John Ryan, Jun., 25 w. of 2d-av., 25x100; 2d-st., n. s., 25 w. of 2d-av., 25x100; Mortgage Bank, Thomas Cochran, O'Gorman to Rosina Schmidt, Hubbertown, 25 w. of 2d-av., 25x100; John F. Ryan, Jun., and wife to Rosina Schmidt, Hubbertown, 25 w. of 2d-av., 25x100; 2d-st., n. s., 25 w. of 2d-av., 25x100;

THE BEAST OF REVELATION.

TROUBLE AMONG BAPTIST PREACHERS.

REV. DR. FULTON SUSPENDED BY THE NEW-YORK CONFERENCE—THE CHARGE OF DISLOYALTY AGAINST DR. SAMSON—AN UNHEAD ADDRESS.

The ministers of the New-York Conference of the Baptist Church held their usual Monday morning meeting yesterday in the basement of the Oliver-Street Church. Rev. Dr. Yerkes acted as Moderator, with Rev. D. C. Potter as clerk. There was a large attendance of ministers as well as of others, as it was expected that the contest between Dr. Justin D. Fulton and the Conference would be renewed. After an opening prayer, the clerk proceeded to read the minutes of the previous meeting, but, when he read that "on motion, Rev. Dr. Fulton was kindly requested to withdraw the obnoxious expressions which he had made regarding Dr. Samson," he was interrupted by Dr. Fulton, who asked to have the exact words he had used, and which were complained of, spread upon the minutes. Messrs. Gessler and Halsey Knapp objected to this, contending that it was too late to add anything to the record of the proceedings of the former meeting. Dr. Swan said he had made the motion, and that the word "obnoxious" had not been used by him. The clerk said he had taken down Dr. Swan's motion at the time, and was positive that the word had been used. Dr. Burroughs said the word really used was "offensive," and, by general agreement, that word was substituted, but later on Dr. Swan remembered that he never even used that word. Dr. Fulton then asked permission to read the exact words he had used. A brother asked whether they would contain the same offensive remarks which the Conference had complained of. Dr. Fulton said they decidedly would. He then read the sentences complained of, in which he had referred to some remarks made by Dr. Samson concerning the Beast of Revelation, and had insinuated that Dr. Samson was disloyal to the cause of freedom during the late war.

Dr. Holme objected to spreading such offensive words on the record, but was replied to by several who thought they must be so placed in justice to Dr. Fulton. That gentleman thanked the Conference for this right, and then proceeded to read a long paper which he had prepared on the subject. He commenced by saying that he made the statement carefully and after much thought, and that he considered it a wise one. He was then interrupted by the clerk, who urged that the minutes had been adopted and could no longer be discussed. The Moderator ruled that the minutes were still open to amendment, and the clerk took his seat amid much laughter. Dr. Hitchcock thought the best way was for Dr. Fulton to withdraw his remarks, and then to wipe out of the minutes all reference to them, while Dr. Burroughs thought that the best thing to do was to move to lay all the motions on the table. This he did, and it was carried, amid much applause, by a vote of 34 to 15. Dr. Fulton then attempted to commence reading his address, when the Moderator asked if it was the pleasure of the Conference to hear him.

Dr. Fulton—I don't care whether they want to hear me or not. It is the right of every member to discuss the last minutes and debate on them.

Moderator—But the brother has already spoken several times.

Dr. Fulton—Yes, and he proposes to speak just once more.

Some discussion followed, and drew from a brother the remark that the meeting was turning into a beer garden, and that it looked like a mockery. Dr. Fulton was then recognized, and wanted to know why the clerk had not done his duty in taking the remarks and motions in writing. Rev. Mr. Lawson stood up for the clerk, when Dr. Fulton replied that he cared nothing about it for himself, and if the Conference chose to go before the world with such a record, they could do so for all he cared. Dr. Thomas pronounced the whole matter a most extraordinary one. It was certainly remarkable, he said, that the man who made the offensive statement should come to this meeting, boast that he did so after much care and thought, and then say that it was a wise one. He has made all this trouble, continued the speaker; he talks more than all the rest, indulges in self-glorification, consumes the valuable time of the Conference, and it was certainly time for that institution to dissolve. Several loud "amens" resounded from different parts of the room, and there was much applause.

Mr. Halsey Knapp said he did not want to stay another day in the Conference, if the remarks of Dr. Fulton were placed on the minutes.

A brother suggested that the minutes should be laid over for some time, until the difficulty between brothers Fulton and Samson could be settled, but it was pointed out by Dr. Burroughs, who denied that the difficulty was between those gentlemen, and said it was rather between Dr. Fulton and the Conference. It was a momentous and most important one, and should be settled at once. [Loud applause.] Dr. Fulton then wanted to know why the Moderator did not put the question before the Conference.

Moderator—I have not yet had an opportunity to do so.

Dr. Fulton—Yes, you had plenty of it, but not the disposition.

The Moderator then put the question, which was on Dr. Fulton's appeal to the Conference against the decision of the Moderator that he was not in order in claiming to have the floor, and the Chair was overruled by a vote of 26 to 16. Dr. Fulton thereupon again commenced to read, when Dr. Holme interrupted him, and it was understood that the offensive remarks which Dr. Fulton was now about to repeat were simply from the Doctor's memory. Dr. Fulton said he'd like to know how Dr. Holme came to understand any such thing, for he had already said that he had the words in writing before he first delivered them. Dr. Holme again rose to explain, but several brethren objected to a public repetition of the obnoxious words. The Moderator said there appeared to be as many opinions on this matter as there were about the Beast of Revelation. Dr. Burroughs said the Conference was asked to decide on the records concerning the remarks made by Dr. Samson. But the words presented were not those originally used. They had been carefully dressed and covered up, and were now offered as a sugar-coated pill. The speaker was here called to order by a brother, who charged him with using personalities in speaking of Dr. Fulton.

Dr. Fulton (excitedly)—His statements are false! They are false!

Dr. Burroughs—Well, I will withdraw my remarks; will he—pointing to Dr. Fulton and shouting at the top of his voice—do as much?

A painful session followed as the precise words used by Dr. Fulton, on the preceding Monday, and he was finally allowed to repeat to the clerk the words complained of, which were as follows:

"This surrender to Rome could not be explained, save on the supposition that a conversation which prevented a man, occupying a prominent pulpit at the north through all the dark years of the war, from ever opening his mouth to say one word in favor of liberty, now enables him to read an essay which ignored the teachings and the truth of Revelation, described the Beast of Prophecy as a principle, an influence, an anything opposed to right, the marks of which beast might be in themselves, or in many ones."

These words were taken down and read by the clerk, whereupon Dr. Thomas asked whether the minutes of the former meeting showed that the offensive remarks had been withdrawn. The clerk said, "No." Dr. Thomas added that he was more amazed than ever that a man could come there, utter exhausting remarks, occupy two hours of valuable time in self-glorification, and then claim that his words were wise and well considered. The speaker was called to order by the Moderator for using offensive personalities. Dr. Hoyt then moved for the appointment of a committee of three by the Moderator, which should be placed in charge of the whole matter and should report the result of their inquiries to the Conference. Rev. Mr. Gessler moved as a substitute, that "Brother Fulton be suspended from membership in this Conference until such time as he shall comply with the resolution of Jan. 20." He would be ready, he said, to welcome Dr. Fulton back with outstretched arms as soon as the brother would take back his offensive words. The speaker read from Cushing's "Manual" the parliamentary usages in such matters, and said thus, if a mere body of Congressmen have sufficient respect for themselves to expel from their body an offending member, surely this Conference of the ministers of Jesus Christ should have sufficient self-respect to do as much. Dr. Fulton jumped up quickly and said it was a pity that Mr. Gessler had moved his substitute, after it would place Dr. Samson on trial and bring out the true innuendoes of the whole matter. At these remarks, loud cries of "Don't recall! Dr. Samson, he is not on trial," came from all parts of the room. "Sit, he will be on trial," replied Dr. Fulton. Dr. Thomas protested against the renewal of such personalities, and the Moderator ruled Dr. Fulton again out of order.

Dr. Fulton said: "I am in order, and I won't submit to such ruling. We ought to have a Moderator here." That officer became very red in the face, and said he was in the chair, and would preserve order, but it was hard to do so when there were raging beasts to control.

A Brother—I object to those remarks of the chair. There is only one Dr. Fulton here, and when the Moderator speaks of "beast" in the plural he includes us. [Loud laughter.]

Dr. Fulton said it was a big world, and that if they turned him out it would be a bad thing. Dr. Burroughs moved to adjourn, but nearly every one in the room shouted "No, no!" Dr. Fulton said, "Fair play, boys; fair play belongs to the Baptist Church. It would have been better to have left this matter to a committee." A good deal of discussion followed, and several brothers tried to speak at one time. Finally there came a lull, and Dr. Fulton earnestly pleaded for "just five minutes" of patient hearing. This being apparently granted, he commenced reading, but was at once interrupted by a general uproar. Dr. Fulton asked: "Can a man be excommunicated from this Conference for making a statement in debate without being allowed to explain his reasons for so doing or proving its truth? and he was answered by "Yes, yes," from all quarters. "Then, in God's name, said the Doctor, "where is your sense of fairness and right? It is essential that I bring to your minds the existence of two great documents. One is the Greek, which had slavery for its corner-stone, and the other the Roman Church, which controls this great city." More uproar ensued, and Dr. Fulton said there was evidently a majority of men in the meeting who were determined he should not be heard. Applause and hisses followed this remark, whereupon a brother moved that Dr. Fulton be allowed 15 more minutes' speech, and not to be disturbed unless by the Moderator. This brought up to him, Dr. Fulton made another statement in justification, and began by saying that a Baptist minister was about to be suspended from his Conference for daring to make a comparison between the disciples of slavery and Rome. The Moderator at once called him to order, whereupon Dr. Fulton said that under such restrictions he could not speak. Taking up his overcoat and hat, he walked quietly down the aisle, saying: "I thank you for all you have ever done for me. I love you now, and may God bless you all." Several renewed "Good-bys," after which Dr. Fulton, while three ministers arose and followed him out.

After he had left Dr. Miller walked up near the Moderator's desk and said he wished to make a few remarks in justification of Dr. Samson. He would hand the statement as given in the public prints, for he would not say that it was given in this conference. Here he was told that as Dr. Fulton could not be heard, as against Dr. Samson, neither could the latter nor his friends be heard, and so Dr. Miller sat down. Remarks were then made on the resolution to suspend Dr. Fulton, a few being in favor of the more politic proposal of leaving the matter to a committee. But the words of Dr. Halsey Knapp were so strongly opposed to Dr. Fulton that they depleted the ranks of his friends, and when Dr. Thomas followed, in a statement that it would be the kindest deed ever done to Dr. Fulton to suspend him until he could be brought to a sense of his error, the applause was almost general, and the question of suspension was put and carried by a vote of 52 to 13. A few remarks followed, amid some disorder, but Rev. A. W. Bonn, of Newark, N. J., spoke loudly, asking why these Conferences were not dismissed with prayer. He had been pained, he said, to see that this was frequently forgotten. This hint being taken, prayer was offered, and the Conference adjourned.

ORGANIZING AGAINST TAMMANY.

ENROLLMENT OF DEMOCRATS OPPOSED TO KELLY—THE DATES FOR PRIMARIES FIXED.

The enrollment of members of "the Democratic Organization of the City and County of New-York" was begun yesterday evening in all the Assembly districts and the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards. The persons enrolled are, according to the language of the call, "in favor of the free and independent action of the people, and are opposed to the control of any secret society or irresponsible power." The Joint Committee of Twenty-seven appointed some time ago by the Irving Hall, the City, and the County Democracy supervise the enrollment. This committee has appointed three "Commissioners of Enrollment" in each of the 21 Assembly districts, and three in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards. These Commissioners examine into the eligibility of the persons who desire to be enrolled, and certify to the correctness of the lists of enrollment. Vacancies in the office of Commissioner are to be filled by Messrs. Emanuel B. Hart, Maurice J. Power, and Robert B. Mooney, who form a special committee for the purpose. The enrollment will be proceeded with on the evenings of the 30th inst., and the 3d, 6th, 10th, and 13th of February, between the hours of 7 and 9 o'clock P. M. On Feb. 20, between 7 and 10 o'clock P. M., primary elections will be held in all parts of the City, at which only persons duly enrolled will be allowed to vote. At these elections three Commissioners of Enrollment will be chosen, as well as 1,120 members of a General Committee for the City and County. The organization of the General Committee will take place at Irving Hall on March 1, at 8 P. M., and the district committees will meet on March 4, at the same hour. About 2,000 persons were enrolled last evening. Previous to the last election, the Irving Hall Democracy, according to their reports, enrolled 22,000 persons, and it is expected that the three Anti-Tammany organizations combined will this year enroll a much larger number.

THE BROOKLYN ALDERMEN.

A NUMBER OF VETOES BY THE MAYOR—HE LECTURES THE COMMON COUNCIL.

At the meeting of the Brooklyn Board of Aldermen yesterday a batch of vetoes from the Mayor was read and placed on file. The first may be said to be political in its nature. It dealt with a resolution, passed by the Common Council at its last meeting, which provided for the appointment of a committee to investigate the Board of City Works, and also to make inquiry in relation to the construction of the Third-avenue sewer, upon which many thousands of dollars were squandered. The Mayor calls attention to the fact that the charges of extravagance, made by himself against two of the Commissioners of the Board of City Works—Messrs. Flaherty and Pennett—have been investigated by the Grand Jury and indictments found against the accused. He more than hints that the proposed investigation is intended to shield the officers named from the consequences of the serious charges against them, and openly accuses that stately body, which he designates as "mean and cowardly," were made on him by the mover of the resolution to appoint an investigating committee. The veto is in the nature of a stump speech, the purport of which is to show that Mayor Howell is a great reformer, and that there are a number of "wicked politicians" in Brooklyn who are opposing him because of his reform tendencies. The Mayor says that one investigation at a time is enough, and that he will oppose all other so-called investigations at present, until that one is disposed of, believing that they have been started merely to divert attention from the charges brought by him against the City Works Commissioners. As to the Third-avenue sewer and the Nicholson pavement swindle, the Mayor thinks that "what happened eight or ten years ago is of comparatively little concern to us compared with the obligations which rest upon us to remedy the past and to leave no vicious precedents as evil legacies for the future." The Mayor also vetoed a resolution passed by the board appointing C. D. Rhinehart a Republican Clerk in Justice Fisher's court, in place of John Courtney, the present incumbent, who is a Democrat. Mayor Howell returned without signing several resolutions providing for the painting and numbering of the lamps at a cost of $2,100.

THE VANDERBILT LITIGATION.

AN EFFORT TO GET A STRUCK JURY IN THE $1,000,000 SUIT—THE WILL CONTEST.

Cornelius J. Vanderbilt's suit against his brother, William H. Vanderbilt, to recover $1,000,000, alleged by the plaintiff to be due him on an agreement for not contesting the will of his father, was upon the day calendar of Part II. of the Supreme Court, Circuit, yesterday, but was not called for trial. On Friday last Messrs. Henry L. Clinton, and Joseph H. Choate, counsel for the defendant, obtained from Chief-Justice Davis an order directing the plaintiff to show cause next Monday why a special or struck jury should not be drawn in the case and granting a stay of proceedings in the meantime. On the following day the plaintiff's counsel applied to Chief-Justice Davis to have the stay vacated. In his decision, rendered yesterday, the Chief-Justice says, among other things, he is satisfied that the case is a proper one for a struck jury, not solely because it involves the large sum of $1,000,000, but because "the action is complicated with other controversies involving vastly larger sums and questions of far greater interest." Among such controversies is the contest before the Surrogate in which the plaintiff is said to be an active participant; the action by the plaintiff to recover $7,000,000 from the defendant for fraudulently procuring the execution of their father's will; and the partition suit of Mrs. La Ban. Besides this the controversies between the parties have excited great public interest, and have been much discussed in the newspapers. "It is not unreasonable," says the Chief-Justice, "to suppose that prejudices exist rendering it difficult to secure an unbiased jury from the ordinary panels. Under such circumstances it is not unreasonable, I think, to allow an opportunity to either party to present to the court the question whether the case be not one proper for a special jury." He therefore denied the application to vacate the stay.

Two attorneys protested, in turn, to Judge Lawrence, in Supreme Court, Circuit, Part II., yesterday morning, against the advancement on the calendar of the Vanderbilt suit, which, they said, had been given an improper preference over their causes. Scott Lord, one of Cornelius J. Vanderbilt's counsel, protested against any change being made in the calendar. He said he had been served with a stay of proceedings, granted by Chief-Justice Davis, in General Term. This stay had been issued on the theory that the cause was so important that it should be tried before a struck jury. Such a jury, Mr. Lord thought, was unnecessary, and he considered the stay of no avail, because it had not been granted at Circuit. He asked for an order directing the defendant to show cause why the stay should not be vacated, and such order was granted, and was made returnable this afternoon.

The Vanderbilt will case was argued all day, before Surrogate Calvin, on a motion by the contestants for the removal of William H. Vanderbilt and others from their position as Executors under the will. In opposition to preliminary objections were made, that the Surrogate had no power in such proceedings to remove Executors, and further that the statements by the contestants, even if true, did not make out a case of irregularity or fraud, nor show that the interests of the estate or of the legatees were jeopardized. The Surrogate reserved his decision on these objections.

MRS. SIEFKE ACQUITTED.

Mrs. Caroline C. Siefke, the wife of a baker residing in Sixth-avenue, near Amity street, was on trial yesterday, in the Brooklyn Court of Sessions, on a charge of attempting to poison her brother, John P. Hopke, of No. 22 Rose-street, Brooklyn, E. D. The facts of the case have been already published. The jury acquitted the accused without leaving their seats.

BRILLIANT BILLIARD PLAY.

SLOSSON MAKES THE LARGEST RECORDED AVERAGE.

HIS WONDERFUL GAME WITH ALBERT GARNIER—THE LATTER'S MARVELOUS CARONS—HEISER WINS HIS FIRST VICTORY, DEFEATING RUDOLPHE.

The second week of the Brunswick and Balke Championship Tournament opened yesterday with two contests, the evening game being probably the most brilliant ever played in New-York. The contestants were Albert Garnier and George Slosson, and in the struggle brilliancy was pitted against the science of the game, and was overwhelmed. In the afternoon Randolph Heiser, the Boston boy player, vanquished A. P. Rudolphe, the French expert, after a long but very exciting struggle. The game in its opening stages was not remarkable for anything but the large number of "goose-eggs" gathered by each player, and the runs thereafter, although played neatly, did not net anything considerable, Heiser being in bad luck, while Rudolphe seemingly played more of an exhibition than a "string" game. Heiser, in his twenty-first inning, gathered the balls on the rail, and began to play with great skill and delicacy. On the ninety-sixth shot, which was a difficult one, he was "kissed off," and retired amid great cheering, having increased his score to 177, over 50 points ahead of Rudolphe's. This he followed with 24 very neatly played carons in his next inning, increasing his score to 201, to which he still later on added 63. Rudolphe responded with 28 prettily-played shots, and, as was evident, came to the conclusion that the Boston lad could not be defeated as easily as he had at first supposed. In his thirty-sixth inning, Heiser gathered the balls and made a pretty series of "nurse" carons on the bottom rail. The balls crossed to the right side rail, and began to click with unfailing regularity to the clock-work tapping of the lad's cue. Onward they went slowly, until just as they neared the top cushion they had chalked 100, and the ball echoed with applause. The obedient ivories for a moment later, reached and crossed the top rail, when, on the one hundred and thirty-second shot, they "froze." Nineteen shots brought them back in position on the left side rail, but again they "froze," and after completing a splendid run of 156 caroms the player left the table, with a score of 461 to his adversary's 215. A series of small runs on both sides followed, Rudolphe creeping up gradually by brilliant play toward Heiser's score, while the lad was having another run of bad luck. A turn came at last, and Heiser, after playing some innocuous shots whose boldness and brilliancy elicited a storm of plaudits from the spectators, gathered the ivories on the top rail, and began a skillful piece of "nursing" that yielded 79 caroms, and brought the game to a close. The following was the score:

Heiser—0, 0, 0, 4, 0, 2, 7, 4, 2, 0, 1, 5, 13, 14, 0, 2, 16, 1, 0, 25, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0